

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

For art's sake
Geraldine Norman urges
tax changes to keep our
treasures in Britain

Carver country
America through the eyes
of short story writer
Raymond Carver

One is enough
The liberated individuals
who prefer living alone

The miracle machine
How East Germany's
sporting system catches
them young

Portfolio

Today's Times Portfolio prize is £4,000, double the usual amount because no one won yesterday. Portfolio list, page 22; how to play, Information Service, back page.

On Saturday £22,000 can be won - the weekly prize of £20,000, plus the usual daily £2,000.

Director in baby case not to move

Miss Valerie Howarth, the social services director in the Joselyn Beckford case, in Brent, north London, is not to take up a £30,000 job with Cambridgeshire County Council. There was "mutual agreement" that it would not be in their joint interests for appointment to proceed the council said.

Space walk

Two Discovery space shuttle astronauts will go on an unscheduled space walk today in an attempt to revive a disabled communications satellite.

Israeli patch-up

By one vote, Israel's Government was ruled to have survived the brink of dissolution after a net authorizing the withdrawal mission to Cairo.

Reagan rethink

President Reagan's aides are rethinking the itinerary of his European tour after the offence given to Jews, US ex-servicemen and Nato allies.

Execution appeal

Three members of the IRA who face execution on Thursday in Dublin have been given leave to appeal against the death sentence for the murder of a detective.

TUC warning

The TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, said the Government's economic strategy was in danger of reducing Britain to a cheap - labour, "shockingly" economy.

Union defied

Six print workers at the Express and Star, Wolverhampton, defied their union and returned to work. A further 68 who ignored a management ultimatum face dismissal.

Peru re-run

Peru's social democratic APRA party looks assured of a big victory in the general election but not enough to avoid a runoff for the presidency.

SA cricket date

Players from South Africa are almost certain to take part in a match at Lord's to celebrate the bicentenary of the MCC in 1987.

Leader page 15
Letters: On the Jarratt report, from Professor E. Stamp; How visit to Prague, from Mr G. Morris

Leading articles: Mrs Thatcher's journey; TGWU ballot; President Banda's visit; Obituary, page 16
Mr Oscar Nemon, Dame Annis Gillie
Features, pages 12, 13, 14
A wasted opportunity; America's high-tech slide; man of the "iron fist"; keeping stately homes in the family; fashion for the wet set
Computer Horizons, pages 24-29
Is Scotland a microchip colony; IBM profits slip; the growing case for secondhand micros; why the manufacturers can survive; Logo sweeps through schools
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Legal appointments

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Pound surges to seven-month high against dollar

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The pound rose strongly against a shaky dollar yesterday, its average value against leading currencies rising to the highest level for 10 months. Sterling was at its highest since September against the dollar.

The pound gained 2.3 cents against the nervous American currency, to close at \$1.2757. Worries over the US economy and financial system dominated the foreign exchange markets. Later, in New York, the pound was quoted at \$1.2730.

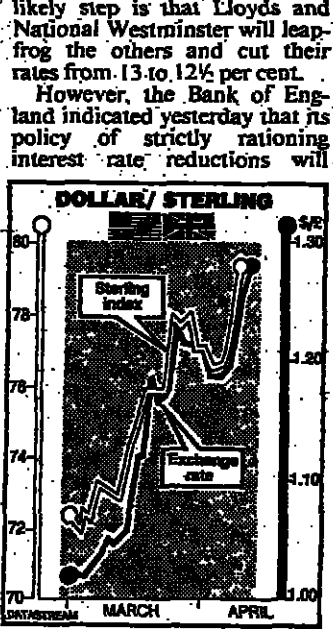
The market has got the bit between its teeth, said one London foreign exchange dealer. "The dollar doesn't look good any more."

The dollar's slide comes as the world's finance ministers and central bankers gather in Washington for International Monetary Fund meetings. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, and Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, leave for the United States today for the two-year IMF meetings.

The main topic on the agenda of the IMF interim committee, the key policy-making body, is the world debt situation, but the dollar's recent fall will undoubtedly feature heavily in the discussions.

At the time of Mr Lawson's last visit to Washington, for the Group of Five meeting in January, dollar strength and sterling weakness dominated proceedings.

The pound has been the chief beneficiary of the dollar fall over the past six weeks, mainly as a result of Britain's high



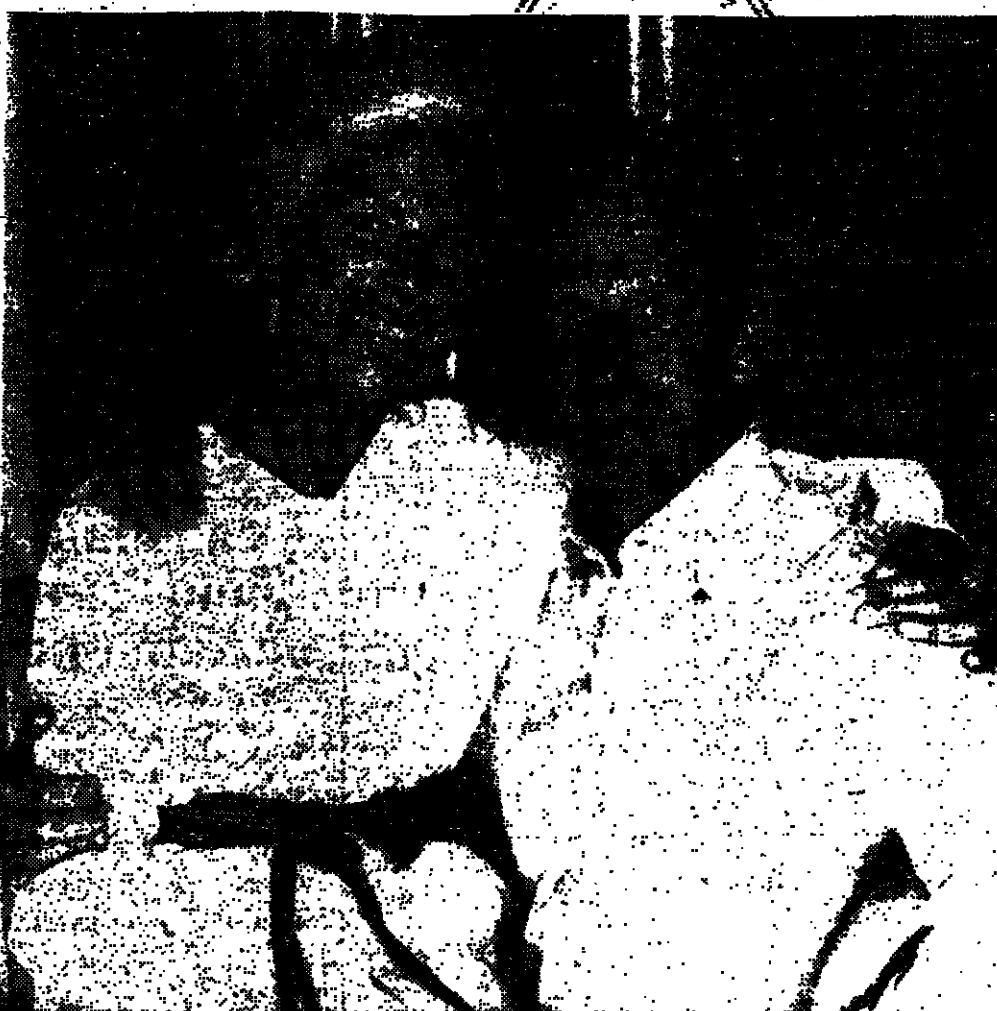
interest rates. Yesterday the sterling index, which measures the pound's average value, rose 0.9 to 79.3, the highest since June.

There is no real reason to buy the dollar and the pound looks attractive with our interest rates, another dealer said.

The pound's continuing strength has raised the possibility of another small cut in base rates. Yesterday money market interest rates fell to a level which would allow the high street banks to cut base rates to 12½ per cent.

On Friday Barclays and Midland cut their rates from 13½ to 12½ per cent. The next likely step is that Lloyds and National Westminster will leapfrog the others and cut their rates from 13 to 12½ per cent.

However, the Bank of England indicated yesterday that its policy of strictly rationing interest rate reductions will continue.



The Duke and Duchess of Kent are leaving today for a visit to Queensland, Australia, which has been marked by the release of their portrait by Norman Parkinson.

Minister to oversee recycling of waste

By Richard Evans Lobby Reporter

A Minister of Waste was appointed by the Prime Minister last night to improve Britain's recycling policy and prevent the needless dumping every year of "rubbish" worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, immediately pledged to make industry more aware of the huge benefits of reclaiming and recycling materials, which currently end up on the nation's rubbish tips.

His appointment follows a report last year from the Commons trade and industry select committee, which said a "vast amount" of waste paper, metals, textiles, plastics and glass were thrown away annually. The value of the lost materials, if reclaimed, was about £750 million.

While responsibility for waste recycling policy will remain divided between three Whitehall departments, trade and industry, environment and energy, Mr Trippier, whose current responsibilities include small businesses, will have a "special co-ordinating responsibility". He will identify any inconsistencies or omissions in Government policy and handle Commons debates and questions.

His appointment was welcomed last night by the trade and industry select committee, which said the response to its recommendations had gone "some way" towards developing a proper recycling policy.

"Substantial, significant wealth and employment creation opportunities are inherent in our recommendations. We consider the Government should do more to assist local authorities to promote waste recycling schemes."

Wasted chance, page 14

Labour attacks 'madcap' proposals

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Labour leaders last night roundly criticised a frontbencher's plan to replace mortgage interest relief. He said: "This is absolutely incidental to the main purpose of this paper on supplementary benefit."

Pressed to elaborate on the impact of the mortgage relief changes, he said: "The vast majority of people would get the same housing aid as they do now. Rich people, those over the level of £20,000 a year, would get less, poor owner-occupiers would get more."

The paper differed, it said, "only those on 1½ times average earnings would receive less assistance". More than two million full-time employees, just under a fifth of the full-time workforce, are thought to earn £15,000 or more, the Meacher penalty.

When that was pointed out, Mr Meacher said: "We are certainly going to ensure that people earning below £15,000 do not suffer."

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Under the Lusaka deal, Pretoria undertook to form a joint monitoring commission with Angola's MPLA government forces which would ensure that its withdrawal would not be accompanied by increased Swapo attacks into Namibia from Angola.

The commission consists of about 300 men from both sides, now stationed about 40 miles inside Angola, which makes the withdrawal announcement by Mr Botha yesterday very much a taken affair.

The minister said Swapo's latest infiltration attempt into Namibia, which usually coincides with the rainy season, had been repulsed with heavy rebel losses.

According to figures issued by the military command in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, 295 Swapo guerrillas have been killed by South African forces this year.

Freeson is alone in fight on selection

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

Mr Reg Freeson was last night left out on his own by the Labour Party in his fight to stop the reselection procedure in the London constituency of Brent East.

Despite a threat of legal action by Mr Freeson-Labour's organization committee decided not to intervene to halt the process, from which the former housing minister has already withdrawn, and said that the reselection should take place on the planned date of April 28.

Fresh TGWU ballot likely, says Evans

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A fresh ballot to choose a Transport and General Workers' Union leader has become more likely as senior officials come to terms with the growing pressure to become for a resolution to allegations of ballot rigging in last year's election.

Mr Moss Evans, outgoing general secretary, said yesterday that a rerun of the ballot was more likely and indicated that he would call an emergency meeting of the general executive council to decide rather than wait for the quarterly meeting in June.

A decision on holding such a meeting depends on whether Mr Evans is impressed by evidence of irregularities that is due to be presented to him on Thursday by Mr George Wright, the Welsh regional secretary, who was defeated in the election.

Mr Ron Todd, who won by 45,000 votes, said yesterday that he was quite prepared for a fresh ballot if there was sufficient evidence to suggest that the election had not been fair. Mr Wright and Mr Todd, the national organizer, would probably be the only two out of the five candidates in last year's election to the part.

Union opinion suggested last night that Mr Wright could expect to pick up a large proportion of the 114,000 votes won by the other candidates, which would wipe out Mr Todd's majority, although several influential voices argued that the executive should not be rushed into calling an election by a "media campaign."

Mr Evans said that he would not be hurried into recommending a new vote. However he regarded Mr Wright as a man of integrity and would examine the dossier of allegations he is said to have compiled.

Mr Evans said: "Even if Mr Wright's evidence is inconclusive we can't have this sort of cloud hanging over our heads. The executive would have to give very serious consideration of what future steps to take in order to clear our good name."

That was seen as a clear sign that the union leadership recognized that the controversy can be resolved only by a fresh ballot.

But hardliners within the TGWU, who may regard Mr Wright's evidence as meaningless, could press for withdrawal of union card, which would mean that he would have to resign as an official.

Continued on page 2, column 3

Infection cuts hospital's transplants

The treatment of patients needing transplants or kidney dialysis has been disrupted at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, by a bacterial infection previously associated with many deaths in other hospitals (Thomson Presswire wires).

The bacterium, *staphylococcus aureus*, has infected 13 patients on three wards at the hospital, and is resistant to antibiotics. Admissions to the transplantation and dialysis ward have been restricted until

the spread of the infection is halted.

A similar outbreak at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, was a contributory factor in the deaths of up to 20 patients in the past two years, and it has been linked with the deaths of many others in hospitals in the United States and Australia.

None of the patients infected at Addenbrooke's has become seriously ill as a result.

Transplant operations at the hospital have not been completely stopped, but Mr Philip Rundle, a senior administrator, said: "It is difficult to continue as normal. Transplant patients are already on drugs which make them susceptible to infection, so they are more at risk from this bacterium."

At least one transplant operation in the hospital's liver and kidney programme has been carried out since the outbreak, but the patient was nursed in a separate part of the 700-bed hospital.

Mr Rundle said the response to its recommendations had gone "some way" towards developing a proper recycling policy.

"Substantial, significant wealth and employment creation opportunities are inherent in our recommendations. We consider the Government should do more to assist local authorities to promote waste recycling schemes."

Wasted chance, page 14

Runcie steps into Australian union row

From Tony Duboudin Melbourne

Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has become involved in Australian domestic politics less than 48 hours after arriving for a three-week visit, by making a statement supporting the right to strike.

He spoke out against a background of confrontation between the Queensland State Government and the trade union movement in the wake of an important electricity supply strike in February.



Dr Runcie: 'You have to have trust'

"To give Dr Runcie credit, he admitted he didn't know the background... I won't make things difficult for him, but had he asked I would have told him a few home truths about the unions," Sir John said.

The Premier has rushed through a series of severe anti-union laws, some of which specifically ban strikes and restrict picketing in the electricity industry.

On Sunday, Dr Runcie said in reply to a question about the laws that legislation could not create an atmosphere of trust in the workplace. The issues were complicated, he said, and he had not examined them all.

The withdrawal of labour had been accepted as a right in a democratic society, he said. "You can't legislate for industrial harmony. You have to acquire trust. There are rights, and there are duties: you cannot ultimately legislate to achieve

harmony unless you can build up a spirit of trust."

Sir John has refused to talk with the Australian Council of Trade Unions about his legislation and has refused to meet Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister. The ACTU plans a transport blockade on Queensland from Friday.

Sir John replied to Mr Hawke's request for discussions by taking up his concern that the Queensland action could affect the national economy. He said the proposed blockade contravened the Trade Practices Act and called on the Federal Government to act against the unions.

He saw no point in talking with Mr Hawke or the ACTU. "Any guarantee from the union is really not worth the paper it is written on... our previous dealings have shown that," he said.

Rail strike in Scotland goes ahead

Rail union leaders confirmed last night that a 24-hour stoppage in Scotland, starting at midnight, will go ahead after the failure of last-minute talks. British Rail will start cancelling trains this evening (Our Labour Correspondent writes).

The strike by 12,000 members of the National Union of Railwaymen has been called in protest at the rundown in the Springburn engine works in Glasgow where the loss of 1,250 jobs is seen as a warning that the works are to be closed.

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● The Transport Salaried Staffs Association, the moderate white-collar rail union which has rejected a 4.8 per cent pay offer, is taking its claim to arbitration.

The combined group will be the fourth largest retailer in Britain after Marks and Spencer, J Sainsbury and Great Universal Stores. It will have a stock market value of nearly £2 billion and annual sales of about the same amount.

Both Asda and MFI have been pioneers in out-of-town cut-price retailing.

Mr Noel Stockdale, chairman of Associated Dairies, said there would be considerable opportunities for combined site development. Merger page 17

MFI and Asda agree £605m bid

Associated Dairies, the Asda supermarkets and Allied Carps stores group, yesterday launched an agreed £605.8 million bid for MFI, the self-assembly furniture chain.

The combined group will be the fourth largest retailer in Britain after Marks and Spencer, J Sainsbury and Great Universal Stores. It will have a stock market value of nearly £2 billion and annual sales of about the same amount.

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Government strategy is leading to 'shoeshine' economy, Willis says

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said last night that the Government's economic strategy was in danger of reducing Britain to a cheap labour, 'shoeshine' economy. And in evidence to the Commons Treasury and Civil Service select committee he accused Mrs Thatcher and Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, of inflicting a Third World prescription, small amounts of high technology and large areas of low pay, for the nation's economic life.

The recent Budget was not just a wasted opportunity but signalled a dangerous new era in government policy. "We don't believe that the main structure of society in the country can be maintained if you continue to have the facility-lives-with level of unemployment we have got", he said.

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the CBI, who also appeared before the select committee to discuss the Budget, said although Britain was heading for a 4 per cent growth rate this year that did not mean the economy was free of "serious underlying problems".

Unemployment was too high, and although the pace of recovery was encouraging, employment continued to grow too slowly. "We also have doubts about the National Insurance Contribution changes creating more jobs in the business sector", he said.

Those fears were shared by Mr Willis.

"It is a fraud to suggest that these measures add up to an attack on unemployment. Unemployment is not at record levels because four million people have not wanted to pay national insurance contributions: it is there because there are not jobs."

"The only jobs likely to arise from the Budget are a few insecure ones on poverty wages."

He added: "I can only say that with the Budget and other recent developments it is proving increasingly difficult to see the Government's policy as being little more than a cheap labour 'shoeshine' economy."

In spite of his criticism of government policy the TUC chief sidestepped responding to Mrs Thatcher's criticism of trade unions made during her tour to the Far East.

Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, had claimed that the Prime Minister "slagged off" trade unions while abroad but did not talk to them when in Britain. But Mr Willis said he was "watching with great interest the space on that particular matter."

Sir Terence said the CBI supported the overall stance of the Budget but was not happy with all its details. "The one important omission involved the failure to increase spending on basic infrastructure by up to £1,000 million a year on viable projects."

Dead child inquiry to be in public

By Tony Samstag

The local authority inquiry into the death last year of Jasmin Beckford, aged four, while in care is to be held in public and will probably last for two months, its chairman said yesterday.

Comparing the importance of the case with that of Maria Colwell, whose death 12 years ago made her name a by-word for child abuse cases, Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, said at a preliminary hearing in Trent Town Hall, north London, that the inquiry would be "neither a w. ich-hunt nor a whitewash."

Although the hearing would follow a modified pattern of ordinary adversarial court procedure, there were to be "no prosecution or accused, no plaintiff or defendant, no applicant or respondent", and all witnesses would be assumed to be telling the truth without oath or affirmation.

The Maria Colwell inquiry had sat for 41 days and heard more than 70 witnesses. The five-member panel, plus two relations advisers, secretary and two counsel for the panel, would sit continuously each weekday from April 29 until June 28, and would hope to publish its report by September.

It was likely that Maurice Beckford, Jasmin's stepfather, and Beverley Lorrington, her mother, would be interviewed in prison, where he is serving a 10-year sentence for the child's manslaughter, and she 18 months for ill treatment and neglect. One reporter would be allowed to attend such an interview.

The couple were convicted and sentenced last month. A jury at the Central Criminal Court was told that the social worker involved, Miss Gunn Wahlstrom, had seen the child only once in the 10 months before her death. Miss Wahlstrom is one of three social service employees of Brent Council who will have legal representation at the inquiry.

Ministry inquiry into Whitehall role of extreme right-winger

By Richard Dowden

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is being kept fully informed about an inquiry into Mr Denis Pirie, an extreme right wing activist who is employed in the department.

After being interviewed by department officials, Mr Pirie, aged 45, was sent home yesterday to his wife, who said he was "a bit silly". The Permanent Secretary, held an inquiry to decide whether he had broken the Civil Service code and should be dismissed.

Mr Pirie, who is employed as an export market research adviser earning £12,000 a year, was convicted in 1962 of organizing "Spearhead", the elite of the British National Socialist Movement, which modelled itself on the Nazi Party. He served two months of a three-month jail sentence.

Mr Pirie, who lives in Brighton, has been helping to set up a new movement, called Our Nation, with Mr Martin Webster, the former National Front organizer.

Mr Pirie is believed to have been present at two meetings, at the Cora Hotel, Bloomsbury, on February 23 and March 9, which were attended by some 30 leading right wingers to form a new movement.

According to DTI rules there is no ban on membership of political parties, but employees should inform the chief establishments officer if they wish to take an active part in politics.

Yesterday, Mr Pirie said that his earlier political beliefs were "definitely over."

In an interview with *Southern Sound*, the independent local radio station in Sussex, Mr Pirie said: "I don't hold those views now. Looking back it was all a bit silly. The picture of me in a Nazi uniform was taken in 1962 and I have not been a member of the National Front since 1976."

Mr Pirie first worked for the trade and industry department between 1978 and 1981, followed by temporary work between then and last December when he was awarded another three-year contract.

Mr John Smith, the Labour spokesman on trade and industry, in a letter to Mr Tebbit yesterday, urged the minister to dismiss Mr Pirie.

Mr Pirie said yesterday that he did not think he would be dismissed "unless it could be demonstrated that in any way I have broken the terms of my contract with the department which I am quite satisfied I have not."

Mr Pirie became a leader of the National Socialist Movement in his early 20s. In 1962 he addressed his first public meeting in Trafalgar Square on the theme of Jewish control, and ended his speech with "Heil Hitler."

At the "Spearhead" trial, he and three other defendants, denied four charges of organizing and equipping a movement but were found guilty under the Public Order Act, 1936.

In May 1964, Mr Pirie became the movement's national secretary, after he left prison. Later he joined the National Front but left it in 1976.

Tax spur as aid to crime prevention

Britain's rising crime rate might be reduced if companies and private householders were encouraged to take more crime prevention measures by setting the cost against tax. Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said yesterday.

Sir Kenneth was speaking as he opened IFSEC 85, the world's largest fire and security exhibition at Olympia, London.

The commissioner said that a large proportion of modern police work involved investigating crimes committed against premises and businesses. Crime prevention would in the long term reduce costs.

Sir Kenneth also called on insurance companies to consider giving discounts on premiums to householders who install security devices, when he spoke at a press conference.

Sir Kenneth urged alarm manufacturers to find ways of reducing the number of false alarms.

No Thatcher statement about tour

By Philip Webster

The Prime Minister, who spent yesterday working at Downing Street after her gruelling tour of South-east Asia, is not to make a Commons statement on the tour.

Opposition critics of her conduct on the tour will have 15 minutes of Prime Minister's question time today to deliver their salvoes. Mrs Margaret Thatcher was said by her aides yesterday to be in an aggressive mood.

Whichall sources were dismissing as ludicrous the furor surrounding the visit, particularly that relating to Mrs Thatcher's health. She was said yesterday to be fine.

The Prime Minister's aides were equally dismissive of suggestions, some by Conservative MPs, that she had taken on too much on the tour.

Her decision not to make a statement today is not unusual. Statements normally follow summit meetings but not tours.

Reports that Mrs Thatcher is planning visits to South America and Africa were not encouraged yesterday. She will go to Bonn next month for the economic summit meeting, and to Milan in June for the European Council heads of Government meeting.

Her next long trip appears likely to be to Nassau, in the Bahamas, for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in October.

Leading article, page 15

Ethnic independents may fight Labour

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Labour Party could be challenged by an increase in number of independent black and asian candidates, trying for the votes of the ethnic minorities, a black Labour activist said last night.

Mr Marc Wadsworth, vice-chairman of Labour's black sections campaign, says in the latest edition of *West Indian World*. "If Labour, a party founded as the political voice of the disadvantaged, does not begin actively to take the issue of black representation seriously, it must face the possibility of increased abstentions, a tide of black independents and perhaps a tendency, particularly among black youth, to redress their grievances through extraparlimentary action."

Mr Wadsworth said that it did not matter that Labour had a lead in the opinion polls, it had to hold more than 50 Labour seats, and gain 40 Tory marginals, in which the black and asian vote could be decisive.

"Labour has to learn, and learn fast before it is too late, that black support must be treated seriously and not with contempt," Mr Wadsworth says in *West Indian World*.

Black delegates and white delegates from more than 24 constituencies decided on Sunday that they would step up the campaign for guaranteed black and asian representation at constituency, regional and national levels.

One Labour MP who could benefit is Mr John Silkin, threatened with deselection as candidate for Lewisham, Deptford. The constituency party is said to be so determined to fight for black rights that the deselection process could be nullified by the presence of black section delegates.

Mr Silkin would then be deemed deselected unopposed.

Black tipped as leader

Mr Berrie Grant is being strongly tipped to become the next leader of Harrogate Borough Council, north London, which would make him the only black council leader in Britain, according to party sources.

The only possible challenge would have been from Mr Toby Harris, the chief whip, but he has told colleagues that he will not stand.

Mr Grant is also expected to make a strong bid for the parliamentary nomination in Tottenham, challenging Mr Norman Atkinson, the sitting MP, and Mr Reg Race, former MP for Harrogate, Wood Green, who has been seen as the heir apparent.

Falklands flights to be shared

By Colin Hughes

The Prime Minister has settled a dispute over the right to fly troops to and from the Falkland Islands by granting a six-month contract to British Airways.

The compromise means that the Royal Air Force, which can cover the route for £9 million a year, compared with the £14 million a year British Airways is charging, will be able to take over later this year.

The dispute arose last year when Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, announced as part of a route-swapping deal between British Airways and British Caledonian that British Airways would have the right to carry the troops.

In return for that and British Caledonian's South American routes, British Airways agreed to hand over its Saudi Arabian run to British Caledonian.

The announcement stunned Ministry of Defence officials.

Union revolt over cash for ballots

From Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter, Eastbourne

The right-wing leadership of the engineering union was under strong pressure yesterday to refuse to accept government money for future postal ballots.

Disaffected moderates among the 124-strong national committee which started its annual conference yesterday, have joined left-wingers in denouncing the union's intention to accept the money.

The dissidents are likely to draw up a resolution accepting the £1 million requested for ballots back to 1981 and due for payment soon, while ruling out future applications.

Mr Terry Duffy, president of the AUEW, agreed it would be "a very close vote."

The AUEW's one million members voted by 12 to one to defy TUC policy and apply for cash for previous ballots, but were not asked about future polls.



CIRCUMNAVIGATORS: Glen Sutcliffe, aged 22, from Blaydon, Tyne and Wear, and Jill Channing, aged 21, from Stockton-on-Tees, leaving Plymouth Haven yesterday to circumnavigate the British mainland to raise money for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

New TGWU ballot likely

Continued from page 1

responsible and considered statement by Ron Todd who has supported my call for a fresh election in the interests of the union."

"It would not be in the best interests of the union for me to prejudice the discussion we will be having on Thursday with the general secretary. For that reason and that making alone I shall not be making any comment, I am, however, looking forward to the meeting."

A new election would take between three and four months, Mr Evans, who was due to retire in July, will stay on as returning officer.

The aim would be to get a new leader installed by the end of the year.

Mr Terry Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, yesterday stated his strong mistrust of the kind of workplace ballot conducted for the TGWU leadership election.

Speaking on the first day of the union's annual national council in Eastbourne, Mr Duffy, whose union submits national full-time officers to periodic postal ballots, said that the TGWU crisis was a tragedy.

Leading article, page 15

What Todd and Wright promised voters

Mr Ron Todd's pre-election address last year to Transport and General Workers' Union voters:

I wish to thank all those branches from all the regions of our union who have placed their confidence in me, and I can assure you that in accepting nomination for the position of general secretary I recognize the immense problems facing the union in the current industrial and political climates.

These problems demand from us a union that is geared to meet the challenges of the 1990s and we have to respond by using the modern techniques of this age in order to provide maximum service to the member and the necessary support to the officer from whom that service is demanded.

To that end it requires in my view not leadership in a dictatorial form but leadership based on direction and guidance in which collective assessment is made involving those colleagues responsible for industrial trade groups and regional administrations in order to ensure the union's ability to effectively serve the members interests.

We need to examine our machinery for consultation and provision of information in order to establish a wider understanding of the issues and more importantly a wider knowledge of the nationals behind our union's policies.

In this age of advanced technology and robotics we also have to recognize the vital role of our national/regional trade groups and district committee activities and the need to improve the links with shop floor representatives so that we develop our industrial strategy at all levels of the union creating a confident membership acting in unison. If elected I will do all in my power to project vigorous leadership and to work for continuous unity with the membership whilst maintaining those key policies that have been determined by our BDC.

Since 1962 I have been involved as a district and regional trade group officer. From 1975 until 1978 I was regional secretary for region one and from 1978 as national organizer my responsibilities have covered many areas of the union's activities.

I am chairman of the Ford NJNC, secretary of the NJC for Stable Staff and chairman of the TUC General Purposes Committee.

I have spoken for our union at TUC and Labour Party conferences and I am an active individual member of the Labour Party.

For a brief period I was acting regional secretary for region ten. I believe these experiences both in the field of industrial bargaining and union administration will serve me in my endeavours to achieve the unity of all sections of our union. Unity in the defence of our members by improved industrial strength. Unity in directing our influence and energies in order to advance the interests of our retired members, our unemployed members and other sections of the wider community.

Above all, unity in continuing to highlight the over-riding problem facing all of us, the question of world peace and the need to build a society free from the horrors of nuclear weapons, working together for a better future in the interests of working people.

Mr George Wright's pre-election address last year to Transport and General Workers' Union voters:

In the 27 years I have belonged to our Union I have learned about all it is the members' Union, and it is the view of the members that counts most.

Let me say from the outset I believe our Union needs good, strong, positive leadership, allied to greater democracy within the Union and a strengthening of the position of our Shop Stewards at the workplace, with better training and resources for all full-time Officers.

These are principles which I have consistently sought to apply throughout my work with our Union. As an Officer in the Midlands and as Regional Secretary in Wales, I have been committed to upholding the policies of our Union, while representing fully the aspirations of the membership.

Representing these views must be the main concern of anyone fortunate enough to serve as General Secretary. My commitment to serve the best interests of our members is total. In this spirit, I am pleased and honoured to accept the confidence of the hundreds of Branches in all Regions who have nominated me to the forthcoming election.

By consolidating the Union's presence in Wales and founding the Wales TUC, where I was elected as General Secretary for 10 consecutive years, I have gained the negotiating, organizing and administrative experience, which is vital to the development of our Union.

To restore the strength, the authority and the influence of the Union calls for a clear view of the

difficulties we face. We require courage and energy to tackle the problems, and the ability and character to lead the Union through the trying times which lie ahead.

If elected I would have the following immediate priorities: to work vigorously to reduce unemployment by raising public and private investment; to restore economic growth, and also to give our industries time to rebuild behind an effective policy of import controls and more orderly trade.

I would increase our support for positive discrimination to improve the rights and working conditions of women.

We must have a "plan for working life" aimed at creating new jobs through optional early retirement, major reductions in working time and improvements in training provisions.

I would work consistently to remove the Tory Government and its anti-trade union legislation, and replace it by a Labour Government pledged to rebuild the Welfare State and restore basic freedoms.

Clearly, we must continue to campaign for peace, with the strongest possible support for unilateral nuclear disarmament and the avoidance of conventional warfare.

Last, but not least, I would work to ensure that this Union at all times acts in a way that is consistent with the views of its members. I would seek to introduce a system of consultation from Branches on how our block vote should be used in elections for the leadership at Labour Party conferences.

While requesting your vote and support in this election, I wish to record my total support for the Union whoever is the winner.

Record 46,000 in jails

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A record prison population has called into question the Government's strategy for ending jail overcrowding. Ms Vivien Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) said yesterday.

The unprecedented total of 46,215 at the end of March was in spite of extending parole eligibility to short term prisoners in July, which cut the prison population by 2,000.

She was commenting on a Nacro briefing paper stating that the total certified normal accommodation of prisons in England and Wales - the number they are officially supposed to hold and is at present 39,103. The latest population is 43,717.

The March 29 record was nearly 3,000, or 11 per cent, more than the figure was at the end of 1984. The number of prisoners always rises in the first three months of the year, but the sharp increase this time compares with an 8 per cent rise last year and 5 per cent the year before.

The record represents a steady increase over the figure at the end of March in previous years: 43,705 (1981); 44,130 (1982); 44,200 (1983) and 44,494 (1984).

Nacro says that Government plans to end prison overcrowding by 1990 can be salvaged only by a determined attempt to reduce the jail population. Most of those sent to prison do not need to go there, because they are not a danger to the public and should be dealt with in other ways.

Detention centre closure demand

The Scottish Council for Civil Liberties has demanded the closure of the Glenochil detention centre and young offenders institution after a youth aged 16 was found dead in his cell on Saturday, the seventh death there.

It is understood that Derek Harris hanged himself.

Correction

Research by Dr John Baldwin has shown that the rate of settlement in magistrates' court cases where defendants are told of the prosecution case against them can be as high as 80 per cent (not 8 per cent as reported yesterday).

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'High society' suppliers jailed

Lord Blandford is put on probation for trying to steal drugs

Lord Blandford, a drug addict and heir to a £53 million fortune, who broke into a chemist's shop to try to steal a heroin substitute, was put on probation for two years after a magistrate spoke of his "nightmare" addiction.

Lord Blandford, aged 29, son of the Duke of Marlborough and heir to Blenheim Palace, was also fined £1,000 at Horseferry Road court for having a tiny amount of the drug - too small for a dose - in his BMW car when he was arrested.

In another case involving drugs yesterday, two lesbian lovers - one of whom was said to have been proposed to by Lord Blandford, were jailed for supplying heroin and cocaine.

Diana Willis, aged 42, known as the "Duchess of Kensington" by some of her clients, was jailed for a total of four years.

Vivian Wyatt, aged 32, was jailed for three years. Passing sentence, Judge John Edwards said: "The message has to go out clearly to you, and others who may be tempted to deal with these terrible drugs even on this relatively low scale, that when caught and convicted, a severe sentence of imprisonment has to be expected."

The two were found guilty at Knightsbridge Crown Court on March 27 of supplying drugs to former Coutts Bank employee Christopher Bennett, aged 29, of Beckenham, Kent. But they were cleared of supplying drugs to property developer's daughter Emma de Vere Hunt, former friend of Lord Glenconner's son, Charles Tennant. Wyatt

was also found guilty of possessing heroin with intent to supply and two counts of possession. She was cleared of supplying cocaine to hotelier's daughter Middy Herskovits.

Willis, of Addison Road, Holland Park, west London and Wyatt, of De Vere Gardens, Kensington, London, had denied all charges, claiming that Emma de Vere Hunt and Middy Herskovits were drug dealers.

Miss de Vere Hunt, aged 25, and Miss Herskovits, aged 23, both claimed they bought drugs at Willis's flat in Kensington High Street.

During their investigations, police discovered 100 pages of names, addresses and telephone numbers of customers from show business and London high society. But throughout the trial the slim volumes remained closed as detectives decided to take no action on their contents.

Among famous names mentioned during the trial was that of Lord Blandford. The court was told he took Willis on holiday and, at one point, she hoped he would marry her.

Lord Blandford said of the allegation that he proposed marriage to Willis: "It's not true."

At his own trial, Lord Blandford, who now attends Narcotics Anonymous and does voluntary work for the organization, listened attentively from the dock as Mr Eric Crowther told him his story was typical of that of many young people addicted to drugs.

Mr Crowther said that Lord Blandford's heroin addiction "sent you berserk" in two nightmare years, 1983 and 1984, and that nightmare seems to have continued in 1985, when you come before me on two serious charges, one of which is burglary."

Mr Crowther said it was a good thing that the case had attracted a lot of publicity because other young people tempted by suppliers to use hard drugs "will realize that the highest in the land can fall to the lowest when drugs are taken."

Lord Blandford, an insurance broker, of Draycott Place, Chelsea, who had 121 mg of heroin when arrested outside the Pimlico Green Pharmacy in Pimlico on February 16 at 1.40am, admitted the charges and was ordered as a condition of probation to attend the Charter Drug Clinic in Chelsea for treatment as directed by his doctor.

Lord Blandford, an insurance broker, of Draycott Place, Chelsea, who had 121 mg of heroin when arrested outside the Pimlico Green Pharmacy in Pimlico on February 16 at 1.40am, admitted the charges and was ordered as a condition of probation to attend the Charter Drug Clinic in Chelsea for treatment as directed by his doctor.

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Moving picture: Nicholas Webb (left) delivering his self portrait to be considered for this year's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition (Photograph: Warren Harrison).

'Robin Hood' went on burglary spree

A grandfather aged 70, who was described as a latter day "Robin Hood" carried out 178 burglaries in 18 months to finance trips to the seaside and parties for deprived youngsters and pensioners, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Edward Gibbs, of Hawkins House, Watergate Street, Deptford, south London, was jailed for 3½ years when he admitted the burglaries and stealing tools worth £250,000 from garages all over London.

Gibbs had a "heart of gold" and wanted to give his neighbours a good time but needed to steal in order to do it, Mr Michael Gledhill, for the defence, said.

Gibbs, who was treasurer of a local youth club and a member of his tenants' association, sold the tools on a market stall and had spent most of the proceeds on others.

Judge Abdela, QC, told him: "It is no use, even in this day and age, being a Robin Hood. Members of the public have got to be protected from Robin Hoods: you were loved by many people but were not putting your hand into your own pocket."

He was dramatically reducing the sentence he would have passed because of the good work Gibbs had done in helping

children. But he was a man with a long criminal record.

Mr William Hall, chairman of the tenants' association, said Gibbs paid for the children and pensioners to go on trips to Brighton and financed Christmas parties, buying them all presents. He would never refuse a request for money from the needy.

Mr Gledhill said Gibbs wanted to provide for the children.

Mr Dorian Lovell-Pank, for the prosecution, said Gibbs had burgled 11 garages in one night and stole so much property that they had to make four trips in a getaway van to take it all home.

Gibbs was traced by detectives from Scotland Yard. He immediately owned up to all the offences and showed an "astonishing" memory in giving details of the burglaries. He took officers on a tour of all the premises he had burgled.

Gibbs used an A-Z map book and a telephone directory to select premises as targets. He told the judge: "I saw children and old folk who have got nothing. It was not for my benefit."

The judge replied: "You may have come to this court expecting a sentence approaching double figures, but the sentence I pass is nothing like that."

Youth denies boy's murder

A youth abducted a boy aged 10 as he played in woods, beat him and then sexually assaulted him before murdering him, Bodmin Crown Court was told yesterday.

Royal Coombes, aged 17, dumped Malcolm Matthews' naked body face down in a muddy pool. Mr David Owen Thomas, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Coombes, a factory worker, of Red Lane, Bugle, Cornwall, pleaded not guilty to murdering Malcolm Matthews, from Camborne, Cornwall, last August.

Mr Owen Thomas said Mr Coombes struck the boy

played in woods, next to a council estate at Bodmin, with a friend aged 11 with whom he was staying while on holiday.

Mr Coombes approached his friend's bicycle. He grabbed the friend and ordered him to drop a stick. The boy dropped the bicycle and ran off. Mr Coombes ordered his friend to tell

Mr Coombes pushed the friend away, grabbed the boy and pushed him up the hill deeper into the woods. The alarm was raised when the friend ran home and told his mother.

The case continues today.

Aston Villa issue computer members' cards

Aston Villa is to become Britain's first football club to issue computer membership cards in a drive to eliminate soccer hooliganism.

Mark Gregory, aged 24, a Chelsea football fan, was given a six-month prison sentence by magistrates in Sunderland yesterday. Gregory, of Watts House, Worthington Road, north Kensington, west London, pleaded guilty to using threatening words and behaviour outside Sunderland's Roker Park ground in February.

Safer new cough vaccine

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Researchers are developing a new whooping cough vaccine which may replace the version that was linked to brain damage 10 years ago.

The new vaccine is being produced by scientists at the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research at Porton Down, Wiltshire, and is said to be safer. Clinical trials are likely to begin next year.

Dr Andrew Robinson, head of the vaccine research group, said yesterday: "We very much hope that the vaccine will be shown to be safer and will find general acceptance with the public. The present vaccine

actually has a very good track record."

Only half of all children in Britain have a whooping cough vaccination, largely as a result of the publicity in the 1970s about links with brain damage.

An epidemic of the disease is expected at the end of this year and again next. Epidemics occur in three to four year cycles. During the last, in 1982, there were 65,810 cases including 14 deaths.

The World Health Organization has estimated that the disease accounts for between 250,000 and 450,000 child deaths each year.

Cottesloe reopening likely with GLC aid

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The National Theatre's Cottesloe stage is expected to reopen in September, with the help of a £375,000 grant from the Greater London Council to replace funds which the theatre has failed to win from the Arts Council.

The lifeline, offered by the GLC in February, seems certain to survive rate capping. The council is also expected to renew its support for other threatened London companies, including English National Opera.

Tomorrow's meeting of the GLC's arts and recreations committee is to be told that it may have to make reductions of about £1.6 million in its planned budget of nearly £65 million, but the losses will be

covered without it withdrawing promises of support, or staff redundancies.

At one time it was feared that the GLC's financial plight might force it to cut all grants to the National and ENO, a move which would close both companies. The additional £375,000 will reduce the 100 redundancies planned at the theatre, although the stage will still close on Saturday.

Sir Peter Hall, the theatre's director, announced the closure of the stage in February.

The National is on the verge of signing a deal to produce television versions of its plays, and negotiations are taking place to transfer the present Cottesloe production, *The Mysteries*, to the West End.

Mother and children die in fire

A pregnant mother and her two young children died in a fire at their council home at Speke, Merseyside, yesterday. Four other children were thrown to safety by neighbours who heard them screaming.

Mary Budworth, aged 30, was found in a bedroom with the two children who died, Leslie, aged three, and Mark, aged 15 months.

Mrs Budworth lived with Mr Terry Felce. Neighbours rescued three of his sons, Lee, aged 11, Dean, aged four and Craig, aged two, and his daughter, Tracey, aged seven. The cause of the fire is not known.

Animal raid case judge checks jurors

Nearly a hundred potential jurors were checked by a judge yesterday before the start of a trial involving a raid last year on an animal laboratory.

At Knutsford Crown Court in Cheshire, Judge Alan Phillips asked if they were present or past employees or had any connection with ICI. About a dozen people responded and were ordered to stand down. The rest were also asked if they were present or past members of any animal rights organizations. None responded. The trial, which involves 20 defendants, was postponed until tomorrow.

Shot man was due in court

A man who died after his gun went off, apparently accidentally, after being challenged by the police had been due to appear at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court yesterday on an indecency charge.

Paul Westney, aged 20, of Coleridge Way, West Drayton, Middlesex, was wounded in the head on Sunday night and died in hospital early yesterday. In court, the police asked for the charge to be withdrawn.

Concorde target

British Airways is considering a Concorde service to the Middle East, the most likely destination being Kuwait, enabling the airline to link the region with its Concorde services to New York and Washington.

Chemicals threat to rare snails

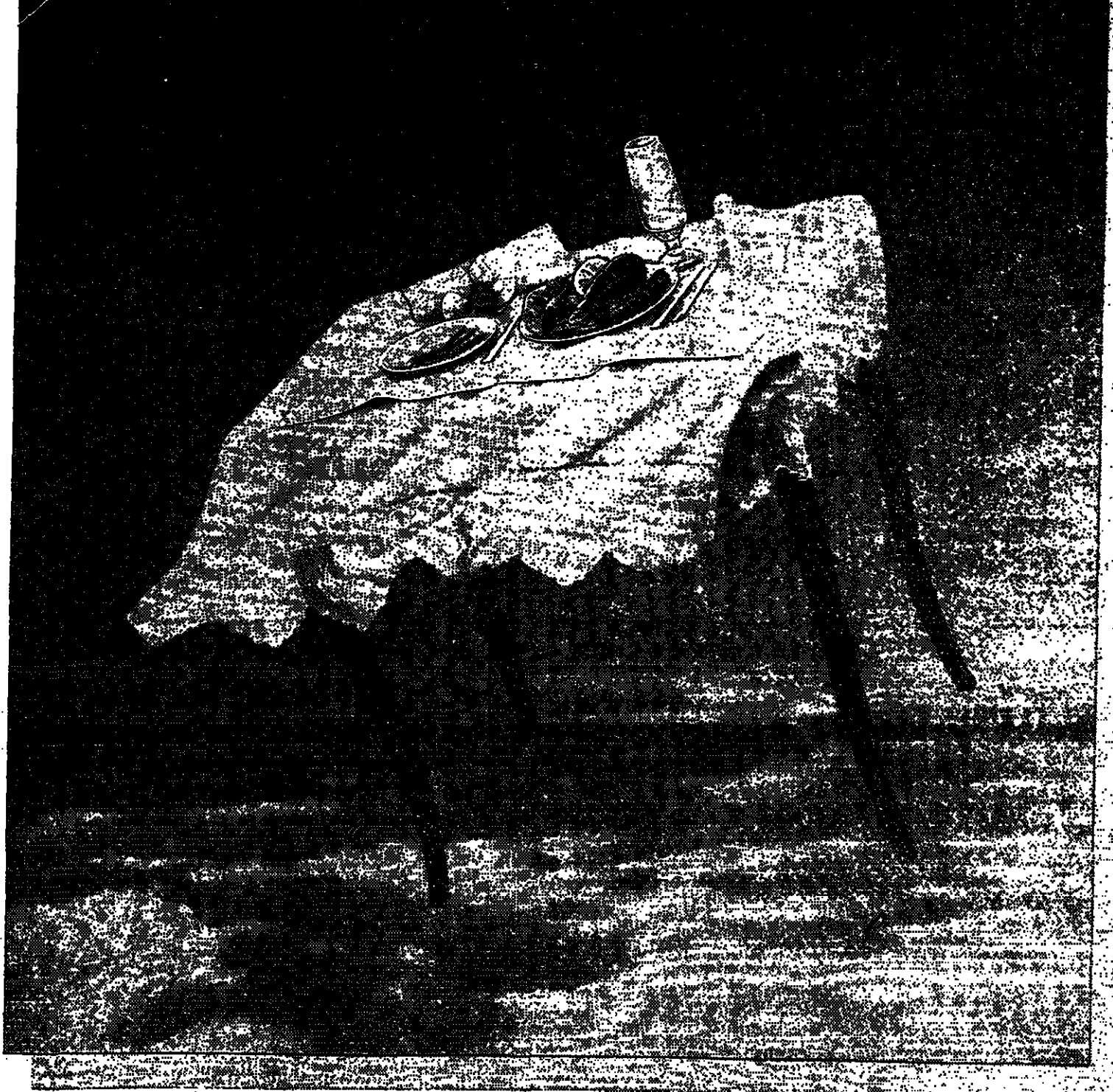
A chemical spillage which killed all the wildlife in a river for 20 miles may have destroyed the last colony in the Thames Valley of one of Britain's rarest snails.

Hundreds of fish, birds and insects died when a tanker carrying a load of organic phosphorus insecticide crashed on the M11, on April 2, spilling its load. The chemical was washed into the river Roding running below.

Since then eels, chub, dace and minnows have been washed up on the shore.

The casualties included a colony of *Pseudamnicola Conus* snails. Extremely finicky about its habitat, it needs water with a salinity of half per cent to one per cent to live in.

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PARLIAMENT APRIL 15 1985

Commercial surrogacy

Abolition of GLC

Safety on buses

Interests of the children must be paramount

SURGACY

It was unacceptable to sell children whether before or after birth, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said when moving the second reading of the Surrogacy Arrangements Bill in the Commons.

The measure, he said, dealt only with outlawing commercial surrogacy and advertising by surrogate agencies, commissioning couples and surrogate mothers. The Government considered this practice was so widely opposed that it should be handled before major legislation was brought forward covering the wider issues contained in the Warnock report.

There was considerable concern (the went on) following the baby Cotton case in January. In that case Mrs Cotton received payment by a commercial agency acting on behalf of commissioning parents. The case illustrated the kind of difficulties and dangers to which the Warnock Committee had already drawn the public's attention.

More than 90 per cent of the comments received opposed surrogacy on a commercial basis. In cases of adoption the Government did not allow commercial arrangements to be made and it should be the same with surrogacy as in both cases the interests of the children should be paramount.

If the Government had not brought this legislation forward now there would be further such births. In America recently a handicapped child had been born through surrogacy and was unwanted by both the mother or the commissioning parents.

He had been encouraged to rear reports that the major commercial surrogate agency operating in Britain had already decided to stop functioning in expectation of the enactment of this Bill.

There were several surrogate pregnancies already arranged by commercial agencies which clearly could not be affected by the Bill. To take account of these and other surrogate births there might be a need for guidance to local authorities on the action they should consider if they became aware of such a surrogate birth and his department would shortly issue a circular.

Where an authority knew that a baby had been or was about to be born in its area as a result of surrogate arrangements it would wish to make inquiries as to be satisfied that the baby was not or would not be at risk.

Circumstances would vary widely in individual cases. An authority's overriding concern in deciding what if any action was needed would be the child's welfare.

In that sense surrogacy was no different from any other situation in which a local authority became aware there was a possibility that a child needed protection. The guidance would deal with the legal issues involved and the steps which a local authority should take where it believed that the child might be at risk.

The purpose of the Bill was to tackle the issue of commercial agencies and the advertising of surrogate services. It did not tackle all the major issues in the Warnock report, but the Government recognized that a major Bill would be necessary to achieve that.

Nevertheless the action on commercial surrogacy was both important and urgent. It had been supported by a whole range of outside bodies and would go a long

way to prevent abuse and above all to place the interests of the child first. Mr Michael Mearns, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said that speaking as an individual on a moral issue which was going to be the subject of a free vote he accepted and fully supported the principle underlying this Bill but believed it was unfortunately motivated by a degree of over-reaction to the baby Cotton case.

The commercial inducement to offer one's womb for reward to poor women to exploit the prospect of surrogacy itself becoming more common. Parliament should not allow or encourage surrogacy to extend or develop. What about the right of an adopted child to know at the age of 18 the identity of his natural mother? Parliament gave that right to adopted children a few years ago. What were rights of a surrogate child in these circumstances? It was maybe something surrogate mothers did not contemplate when they entered into such arrangements.

The emotional outcome of telling a child it was born to a surrogate mother would be hard to judge. What advice would be given, and to whom, to someone who had undertaken a surrogate birth or to anyone taking a surrogate child into their family?

Mr Anne McCarley (Renfrew West and Inverclyde C) said the Bill was about nothing less than the sale of children, which was to be banned. She was more and more convinced that the attraction of money had been paramount and above any of the altruism which surrogate mothers had spoken of in newspaper interviews.

There were sometimes that United States mortality came to Britain within 10 or 20 years. But she was pleased Britain was not waiting that long over this matter. She said the Bill had taken a very British stand on it.

In the United States problems of the identity of the children came across strongly to the public, as had problems affecting the family of the surrogate child. Women who had borne the children had gone back home without a child and found a strange sense of bereavement among their own children.

Sometimes even the husband who had consented to his wife being a surrogate mother suddenly felt a revulsion towards the relationship the child had had with his wife. This had caused deep problems. She was sympathetic to infertile couples, and inadequate money was being provided for consultations to help them. But the House should not act so as to pile on more problems on society. There were enough family problems now. She did not think a ban would drive surrogacy underground.

In the Highlands of Scotland, within families, sisters had frequently had a child for a sister. She said she was not aware of any criminalization of informal family arrangements. While she did not wish to see surrogacy as a trade between people for commerce or on a non-commercial basis, there was a certain point at which it would be hostile to interfere that far in family life. She wished the Bill a speedy passage.

Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton, Lab) said he welcomed the Bill to the extent that it attempted to deal with commercial agencies profiteering from surrogacy.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L) said the Government was right to introduce a measure of this kind. There was widespread agreement that there was something morally wrong about the purchase of babies and the particular variety of that arising in surrogacy.

There was a danger of exploitation of the mothers involved because of financial pressures that could be put upon them. Equally there was a danger that the possibility of commercial agencies developing could open up the prospect of surrogacy itself becoming more common.

Parliament should not allow or encourage surrogacy to extend or develop. What about the right of an adopted child to know at the age of 18 the identity of his natural mother? Parliament gave that right to adopted children a few years ago. What were rights of a surrogate child in these circumstances? It was maybe something surrogate mothers did not contemplate when they entered into such arrangements.

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There was a danger of exploitation of the mothers involved because of financial pressures that could be put upon them. Equally there was a danger that the possibility of commercial agencies developing could open up the prospect of surrogacy itself becoming more common.

Parliament should not allow or encourage surrogacy to extend or develop. What about the right of an adopted child to know at the age of 18 the identity of his natural mother? Parliament gave that right to adopted children a few years ago. What were rights of a surrogate child in these circumstances? It was maybe something surrogate mothers did not contemplate when they entered into such arrangements.

The emotional outcome of telling a child it was born to a surrogate mother would be hard to judge. What advice would be given, and to whom, to someone who had undertaken a surrogate birth or to anyone taking a surrogate child into their family?

Mr Anne McCarley (Renfrew West and Inverclyde C) said the Bill was about nothing less than the sale of children, which was to be banned. She was more and more convinced that the attraction of money had been paramount and above any of the altruism which surrogate mothers had spoken of in newspaper interviews.

There were sometimes that United States mortality came to Britain within 10 or 20 years. But she was pleased Britain was not waiting that long over this matter. She said the Bill had taken a very British stand on it.

In the United States problems of the identity of the children came across strongly to the public, as had problems affecting the family of the surrogate child. Women who had borne the children had gone back home without a child and found a strange sense of bereavement among their own children.

Sometimes even the husband who had consented to his wife being a surrogate mother suddenly felt a revulsion towards the relationship the child had had with his wife. This had caused deep problems. She was sympathetic to infertile couples, and inadequate money was being provided for consultations to help them. But the House should not act so as to pile on more problems on society. There were enough family problems now. She did not think a ban would drive surrogacy underground.

In the Highlands of Scotland, within families, sisters had frequently had a child for a sister. She said she was not aware of any criminalization of informal family arrangements. While she did not wish to see surrogacy as a trade between people for commerce or on a non-commercial basis, there was a certain point at which it would be hostile to interfere that far in family life. She wished the Bill a speedy passage.

Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton, Lab) said he welcomed the Bill to the extent that it attempted to deal with commercial agencies profiteering from surrogacy.

Those who harass will not escape justice

MINERS' STRIKE

Those perpetrating harassment at the end of the miners' strike should not think they were going to escape justice, Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said in a speech during questions in the Commons.

The picketing and harassment during the strike did nothing for the good name of Britain, he said, but he refused to comment on remarks the Minister, Margaret Thatcher, made while on her recent visit to South-East Asia.

The subject of cases outstanding in connection with the coal mining dispute was raised by Mr Peter Bravely (Leicester East, C) who said: I ask him to see how many there are still awaiting charge and trial, purely because there is now again victimization happening at the pits between working miners who never went on strike and striking miners who have returned.

There does have to be some deterrent aspect provided for the future. Sir Michael Havers: Where cases of harassment have occurred since the end of the strike, police inquiries are under way, and in the case of Mr Wainwright the Director of Public Prosecutions is advised certain charges to be preferred.

If there is any continuing harassment of that sort, I do not think those who are perpetrating it to think they are going to escape justice.

Mr Nicholas Brown, for the Opposition (Newcastle upon Tyne East): The latest available figures were that out of 9,508 persons arrested only 7,917 have been charged to date and of those 1,335 have so far been acquitted. One thousand, if not more, cases are still to be heard.

In these circumstances, where the overwhelming majority of cases involve trivial charges against persons who had led a previously law-abiding existence, I urge him to think again and make a general statement that can act as guidance to the people pursuing these prosecutions at considerable expense to the taxpayer and detrimental to the respect for the law in the constituencies, to let them to ease up.

Sir Michael Havers: An amnesty is not within my power since in most cases the chief constable is responsible. Even if it were, it would be wholly inappropriate and not conducive to peace in industrial disputes if I were to give that sort of guidance. It would be unfair to those already convicted.

Of course there must be a number of border-line cases among these. One saw that occur in Nottingham recently when a number of cases were dropped.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Littleborough and Salford, C): Incidents during the miners' strike rather tarnished the good name of this country. That being the case, it is not very important that justice is seen to be done and despatched quickly. This is the reason the Prime Minister felt it necessary to assure our friends in the Middle East that he had come to grips with this problem in our country.

Sir Michael Havers: I am certainly not going to say anything. The Prime Minister said when abroad. There is no doubt what happened during the strike - the picketing and harassment - did nothing for the good name of Britain, but on the other hand a large number of people have been prosecuted and the conviction rate is something in the region of 75 per cent.

Lack of cooperation on abolition proposals may put future of council staff at risk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Failure to cooperate with the Government in its proposals to abolish the six metropolitan county councils and the GLC would risk making the staffs of those bodies casualties of a political rearranged deck, Lord Eddon, Minister of State for the Environment, said in moving the second reading in the House of Lords of the Local Government Bill.

There had been incessant and even intemperate political opposition to the Bill, he said, but it must now be clear that once the Bill had been passed, the staffs of those upper tier authorities would be abolished.

These bodies and their staffs (he said) that refuse even to talk about the arrangements to be made - and there are some that threaten any of their officials who even talk about the arrangements with the sack - do great damage not only to their own electors but also to their employees.

It is not the Government's intention to make a programme to leave staff in doubt as to their future for a moment longer than necessary and I beg their employers and trade union representatives to enter now into dialogue about the work that lies ahead so that we can begin defining the new jobs that will be available.

They really cannot risk (he said) making a programme of mass redundancies of a political rearranged deck.

The Bill rested four square on long experience of the fact that inefficient and which kept important decision making at a distance from the people. It rested four square upon the Government's election pledge to bring a programme approved by the British electorate.

Not only would it save money, it would give the electorate a closer interest in local government affairs. In the metropolitan county councils with an average population of 1.8 million, the authorities accounted for only 28 per cent of local government expenditure, while the problems of local government of the GLC meant spent only 11 per cent of that total. The GLC was not the old LCC, it was a very different creature which had become very much the junior partner of the London boroughs.

The reduction of the electoral scale (he said) from the grandiose to the comprehensible is important. One sees individuals in thousands but when you come to millions they become statistics. Democracy is strongest where voters are closest to the seat of power.

Lord Eddon said that the Bill was not being introduced to the House of Lords without any in-depth inquiry or research. The Alliance believed the local government required genuine reform of its structure and functions. It was a pity that this massive piece of legislation had been brought forward merely to deal a political blow at one's opponents when there were problems of local government which the Bill did not touch.

The Bill was an irrelevance to the problems. It would have a destabilising effect on local government in England. It intended to support proposals for the introduction of referenda before the Bill was implemented.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Ronald Bowley, said that in his eight years in the House he had not received even a token of the response and comment he had had to the Bill. Nearly all had expressed great anxiety at the haste with which the Bill appeared to have been put together, without any inquiry or commission first.

two, it should not increase the centralization of power, three, it should not damage the local services people are now getting. Additionally, it should not increase costs to the ratepayers.

She asked whether the proposals would bring the people closer to local government. When one saw that over 100 powers of intervention and control were given to the man in Whitehall the answer was "No". The ministerial powers in the Bill were staggering. The Times had called the Bill "a recipe for private government and the abuse of power".

The Bill was the most authoritarian measure from a Government which had constantly reduced local freedom and independence through a string of legislative proposals. Could it be argued that services would be other than damaged by the creation of this mish-mash of divided responsibility?

She predicted that whole areas of cultural life would suffer. The Bill represented a luddite and retrogressive stance. Are we to accept (she asked) that London will be the only capital city in the western world without its own distinctive voice and functions? Reducing it to a wretched residual body is like switching the language of Shakespeare for the jargon of a Government regulation.

The Bill requires surgery. It requires not just cosmetic surgery - a face lift - but radical surgery. (Labour cheers). The implications

Indeed in London, once ratepayers were relieved of the burden of supporting the GLC, they would have even more funds available.

When the GLC had finally been abolished what better use could there be for the empty building than as a home for the European Parliament? An offer should be made to that effect so giving the European Parliament a permanent home.

Lady Fisher of Redal (Lab) said voting in the metropolitan county councils at the last election had been 61 per cent for Labour and 39 per cent for the Conservatives so they had not voted in favour of abolition. It was time the reality of the situation outside Whitehall was brought home to the Government.

Lady Stedman (SDP) said the consequences of the Bill were likely to be damaging to local government. It was vital if changes were made to ensure that the new arrangements would endure and there was so much opposition to the proposals it was highly unlikely that genuine reform of its structure and functions.

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Following poor maintenance after the privatization of the buses. Does the Government intend to employ more staff to keep tabs on the cowboy operators who will flourish under this Act?

Mrs Chalkin: There is always concern about safety standards. It is because of that concern, quite apart from this Bill, that we have been reviewing the number and priorities of vehicle and traffic examiners. I will be having meetings on this later this week.

We are already committed to making additional resources available for vehicle and traffic examination. Following deregulation of the long distance services, the quality of services has improved immensely. There is no reason why it cannot improve on services by whomsoever they are run provided they are properly supervised. That will be done.

Mr Eric Forth (Mid-Worcestershire, C): The safety standards of many of the municipal and public services leaves much to be desired. Mrs Chalkin: The chairman of the

Most, and the views came from a complete cross section of south London, expressed fears about the possible consequences for the voluntary bodies working in the community.

If there is a majority in favour of these proposals as they stand (he said) I have to report that it is a remarkably silent one.

The Bill (he continued) seems to offend against the long Christian tradition of struggle against man's power in the centre whether in the state or the church.

The legislation affected millions of people and it ought to be work of arrangements to ensure that the voluntary bodies were not only continued but were shared by all Londoners who made use of the many facilities.

He also regretted the metropolitan counties and the GLC had been put together in the one Bill. That would inevitably draw attention to the capital which had its own particular social problems, to the exclusion of thorough consideration of the metropolitan counties.

It is fear that this will be seen (he said) as one more example of how the north of England is being south-easted to London and the south coast.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said that was one reason to believe the successor authorities would be any less generous to the voluntary bodies than the GLC had been. They would be able to distribute and while there might be a different line of approach there would be no less financial available.

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Ministers to explain bus policy

TRANSPORT BILL

The distortion of the Transport Bill by Labour was so widespread and extensive that local authorities had been spending not hundreds or thousands of pounds but tens of millions, £100,000 of ratepayers' money, in a campaign to discredit the Government's proposals, Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said during Commons questions.

He added that ministers were making visits around the country to explain the Government's policy, and proposals to combat the distortion.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) had said that even those enjoying the meanness and most unsatisfactory bus services were easy fodder for the distortions of Labour MPs, particularly when Labour councils were saying that there would not be any financial support from county councils for existing bus services.

It is time that a more determined effort was made (he continued) to

present the virtues of the bus policy nationwide so that people will be satisfied that their services are likely to be improved and not destroyed, particularly in rural areas.

Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) said: I am telling the hon. Minister about losing their concessionary fares that they had nothing to worry about.

MPs should be assured that if the Bill was enacted all bus operators would have to observe concessionary schemes where they already existed and that the concessions would not be any worse than present ones.

Mr Mitchell said the Bill provided that concessions through operators had to be available to all operators and not, as now, where they could be reserved to the municipal operators or other favoured son of the rating authority.

Levels of concessionary fares were matters for the local authority to decide in the light of local circumstances. Mrs Gwyneth Dawood, chief Opposition spokesman on transport,

port, asked Mr Mitchell to explain to the public that, far from writing in safeguards for those working in the industry or for consumers in the concessionary fares, the few existing safeguards were being removed.

Why had the minister removed from the Bill the safeguard which would enable people to make representations to the traffic commissioners on the quality of operators?

Are you not (she added) trying to perpetrate an enormous confidence trick on the public?

Mr Mitchell said that was not true. We removed, under pressure from Conservative MPs (he said), a clause which was otiose, unnecessary, repetitive and still leaves the right to be heard by the traffic commissioners.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Prosecution of Offences Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Child Abduction Bill, report. Insolvent Bill, third reading. Representation of the People Bill, committee.

Gas industry debate refused

A request for an emergency debate on Northern Ireland's threatened gas industry was turned down in the Commons by Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill).

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, argued that the prospects of saving the industry, and the 1,000 jobs involved, needed dealing with every day that passed. It was difficult to contemplate a more deliberate step in the face than the Government's announcement on April 5, the day after the House rose for the Easter recess, that it was rejecting the gas industry working group's proposals.

Plans to bring in regulations concerning the safety of child buggy pushchairs had been delayed because the European Commission considered they could create a barrier to trade, Mr Alex Fletcher, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in a Commons written reply.

A bad example is the present adapting of Nimrod aircraft to the airborne early-warning role. Contracts were placed in 1977 on a cost-plus basis, without a prime contractor being appointed. Marconi was given responsibility for the radar and associated systems, and British Aerospace for adaptation of the aircraft. The result has been a three years late in entering service, with corresponding over-runs on costs.

Mr Heseltine will be glad that he bears no responsibility for that contract. But he will not doubt be delighted to accept responsibility for the contract placed a few weeks ago for a new trainer aircraft for the RAF by Shorts of Belfast and Embraer of Brazil. That contract came in at 33 per cent, or £60 million less than allowed for in the ministry's estimates.

If a contract can be carried through without the contractor running into severe difficulties, the RAF trainer contract will stand out as one of Mr Heseltine's greatest successes at the ministry. It will also stand as a benchmark to assess future contracts.

Concluded

Question Time change approved by Speaker

By Richard Evans Lobby Reporter

Mr Bernard Weatherill, Speaker of the House of Commons, last night approved changes to the twice-weekly ritual of Prime Minister's question time which could save £70,000 a year.

From the end of this month the lay-out for printing oral questions to Mrs Thatcher on the daily order paper will be amended, meaning economies in paper, typesetting and printing.

The change comes after a recommendation by the Commons Select Committee on Procedure, disclosed in *The Times* last month, which highlighted how up to six or seven pages of the order paper on Tuesday and Thursday are filled with identical questions asking the Prime Minister to list her official engagements for the day.

MPs use the "open" question technique to spring un-expected supplementary questions on Mrs Thatcher to try to catch her out.

Mr Weatherill told the Commons that arrangements were being made for the new questions format.

Barrister's throttling ordeal

A barrister who is a partner in an international law firm broke down in a Central Criminal Court witness box yesterday as she described the terror of being attacked by a stranger near the Chelsea home of Mrs Margaret Thatcher in Flood Street.

Mrs Lisa Spry-Levinton, aged 35, told the jury that she was about to start a car when the driver's door was wrenched open and she was punched and grabbed by the throat, causing her to almost lose consciousness.

Mrs Spry-Levinton said she thought she was going to die and in an attempt to save herself offered to let the man rape her, but he said: "I don't want to rape you. I want to kill you."

She was giving evidence at the trial of Abdul Aziz Echouafni, aged 24, a professional footballer from Morocco, who denies charges of attempted murder and causing grievous

bodily harm with intent. Echouafni, of Chelsea Manor Court, Chelsea, West London, admitted causing actual bodily harm to Mrs Spry-Levinton, of Portland Road, Notting Hill, last August.

Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC, for the defence, described the incident as bizarre and tragic and said the only issue would be the mental state of his client.

Mr Timothy Cassel, for the prosecution, said Echouafni launched an unprovoked and motiveless attack on Mrs Spry-Levinton.

Neighbours heard her screams for help and chased Echouafni off. When arrested several days later he said he was "too drunk" to remember what happened, the jury was told.

The case continues today.

Decline in new car sales predicted

By Clifford Webb Motoring Correspondent

A gloomy future for car dealers with fewer garages selling new cars to a declining British market, is forecast in the latest Market Intelligence (Mintel) report on Garages and Motor Traders.

The predicted contraction in new car franchises continues a trend identified 10-years ago.

Since then British Leyland has cut its new car outlets by half and Vauxhall/Opel by a third. Many were snapped up by importers, but not sufficient to prevent a 20 per cent reduction from 10,201 to 8,352 outlets

on buses
on abolition
ut future
at risk

Two counties win strike reprieve after supporting teachers' claim

Strikes by teachers in Essex and Cumbria have been called off because of the councils' support for the teachers' case in the pay dispute.

Selective action by members of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the second biggest teaching union, was due to start in Essex tomorrow. The National Union of Teachers, the biggest union, had threatened to take strike action in Cumbria next week.

The NAS/UTW said yesterday that Essex was among 17 Conservative-controlled authorities on its new "hit list" for selective strikes from tomorrow.

But it had been removed from the list after a joint statement by Mr Paul White, the Essex education committee chairman, and the Essex NAS/UTW, which listed seven points of "clear unequivocal support" for the teachers' case. However, the schoolmasters are to continue no-cover action and no lunchtime supervision.

The union also said that if its national action failed to result in movement by the Government, it could give no guarantee that selective strikes would not be used in Essex.

In Cumbria, Mr Terry Buckler, the County Secretary of the NUT, gave the education committee an assurance yesterday that there would be no further balloting of schools on strike action, during the remaining life of the council.

This followed a statement by Mr Les Tuley, the education committee chairman, in which he supported the teachers, and emphasized that the dispute was not between teachers and the local authority.

"We accept that the job of teaching has become more demanding and important in an increasingly competitive and technological world," he said.

In the long term, "a body must be set up representing all the various interests of education, to work out a structure that will ensure that teachers get adequate rewards for the work they perform, and will also give them incentives and reasonable career expectations."

In the short term, unions should join employers to negotiate an interim settlement and seek more cash from the Government together. The council would also press next week for the reconvening of the Burnham committee, Mr Tuley said.

Mr Buckler, welcoming the statement said that they would reconsider their position after the May local government elections, in the light of whatever policy was adopted by the new administration.

Space game addict killed for £36

A man was so addicted to "space invader" machines that he killed a friend for it, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

George Noel, aged 22, battered his French flatmate to death with a brick, for £36 and spent the money on the machines.

He kept the body hidden in the attic for seven months but had nightmares and confessed to a friend who told the police. Noel, unemployed, of Avenue Gardens, was sent to Broadmoor Hospital without limit of time, after pleading guilty to the manslaughter in December 1983 of Jean Marcel Moyeux aged 31, a chef, on grounds of diminished responsibility.

His plea of not guilty to murder was accepted. Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, said Noel killed Mr Moyeux as he slept. He used the victim's identity to obtain his social pay.

Buskers to sue police for assault

Two London buskers are to sue the British Transport Police, and by extension London Regional Transport, for unlawful imprisonment and assault as the result of an incident on London Underground on New Year's Day. The High Court writ, when issued, will almost certainly be the first such prosecution by buskers.

Mr Michael Kay and Mr Jeremy Helm, who perform as Bongo Mike and Extremely Frank Jeremy (BA Cantab), have been litigating almost non-stop during the past few years to de-criminalize busking, which in Britain is usually prosecuted under obstruction or trespass laws.

The buskers were arrested at St James's Park station while performing in an underground train.

Animal welfare: 2

Slow movement to end of experiments

Progress in the development of alternatives to using animals for laboratory experiments will be reviewed at a conference this year. In this second article examining the prospects for new laws controlling animal experiments, PEARCE WRIGHT suggests the acceptability of proposed regulations will depend on clear signs that alternative methods are adopted when and wherever possible.

Laboratory buildings at Cambridge were damaged last Saturday during a protest, increasingly familiar at weekends during the past two years, by militant animal rights groups.

Yet long before the protesters took to the streets a number of senior scientists, albeit a minority group, had begun the search for alternatives to using animals for medical research purposes, and for safety testing of drugs and other substances.

Dr Harman, an eminent experimental physiologist at Surrey University, did much to draw the attention of his colleagues to the scientific arguments against much of the experimentation, by listing the physiological reaction of an animal under stress.

Adrenaline in the body increases, raising blood pressure, heart rate and the breakdown of glucose; violent muscular contractions cause a more rapid breakdown of the energy store of biochemicals; hyperventilation increases the carbon dioxide in the blood, which tends to alkalinity. Increases in metabolic rate and temperature cause other changes in enzyme reactions.

According to Dr Harman there is hardly a single organ or biochemical system in the body unaffected by stress, and it is the main reason for the wide variation reported among animals on whom painful experiments have been done. However, even allowing for experiments to be ruled out on such grounds, he believed "in a century's time we will still have many difficult questions which can be answered only by sacrificing animals."

New controls should ensure a reduction in the number of animals for two reasons. Licences will depend on an applicant explaining to the Home Office the scientific, medical or public health necessity of a project, in addition to describing how it will be conducted.

The approach does not find universal acclaim, but it may be accepted as an uneasy compro-

mise by the moderate animal welfare groups, the veterinary association and many working scientists, provided trivial experiments are ended and alternatives encouraged.

There will certainly be disappointment that the new controls do not seek a direct replacement for both the Draize Test and LD 50 test. The use of rabbits to test for eye irritants in cosmetics, shampoos, detergents, pesticides and other household substances, is called the Draize Test, after the scientist at the American Food and Drug Administration who devised it.

Although the test is known to be inaccurate and alternative methods of testing with cultures give equal, if not better results, the procedure has become a matter of routine. Similarly, the LD 50 (median lethal dose 50 per cent) test, has been discredited, and again, a replacement is for acute toxicity testing of substances, that would cut the number of animals killed using the existing method.

There has also been an initiative by the animal welfare movement, first by the Lord Dowding Fund, which is a branch of the National Anti-Vivisection Society, and by the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME), to support research devoted to specific alternative methods.

Introduction of alternatives is taking a long time, for good reasons. There are four stages to a successful new method: the development of the technique itself; the validation of the accuracy and repeatability of the method; trials using genuine products in a real situation; and obtaining acceptability by official bodies who use the results to issue safety certificates.

There are also four broad categories of alternative techniques that replace or reduce animal experimentation. They are: Cell, tissue and organ culture tests; micro-organisms and lower invertebrates tests; mathematical and computer aided; human and epidemiological studies.

Tebbit to confront Japanese on trade

From David Watts Tokyo

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, today adds his voice to the growing clamour for the further liberalization of the Japanese market.

Starting his first official overseas visit since the Brighton bombing, he will today meet both the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, and the head of the special Liberal Democratic Party committee on economic affairs.

Mr Tebbit's interests in the area of liberalization appear to lie in the opening of Japan's financial markets - Barclays is among the foreign banks seeking a trust banking licence - and telecommunications. He is due to meet the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications and the Finance Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita.

So far, British manufacturers are showing little interest in what will be a large market for telecommunications equipment in the years ahead.

The Japanese side will be emphasizing its belief that the latest round of economic measures, announced on April 9, will meet foreign complaints about Japan's trade imbalance. Britain's direct trade imbalance runs at about £2.8 billion annually. It does, however, receive 40 per cent of Japan's investment in the EEC and the Japanese are the third largest foreign investors in Britain after the Americans and West Germans.

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, returned from the United States yesterday and said he was shocked at the level of concern in America at Japan's trade surplus. Negotiations, meanwhile, have resumed with the US on telecommunications standards.

New face at Grange Farm: Fiona Mathieson, aged 34, who made her first appearance as Clarrie Grundy in Radio 4's The Archers last night. The actress is the daughter of Muir Mathieson, the late film composer, and Hermione Darnborough, a former ballerina.

Three held on kidnap charge

Two brothers and another man were remanded in custody for a week yesterday accused of kidnapping a policeman.

Lee Roach, aged 22, and Carlton Roach, aged 20, both of Swythling, and Warren Baker, aged 21, of Townhill Park, Southampton, appeared before magistrates at Bournemouth charged with unlawfully carrying away PC Michael Hattam in Bournemouth early on Saturday.

Bygraves to bid for quiz show

Max Bygraves yesterday began a battle to try to restore his TV quiz show Family Fortunes, which was dropped by Central Television while he was in Australia, by announcing that he hopes to buy the rights to the show.

From the courts to the country Finding a fortune on the farm

In the second of a three-part series chronicling the fortunes of the first five years of independent Zimbabwe through the eyes of its inhabitants, Jon Rasmussen reports from Inyati, in the west, on how one of the whites who remained has prospered under the new regime.

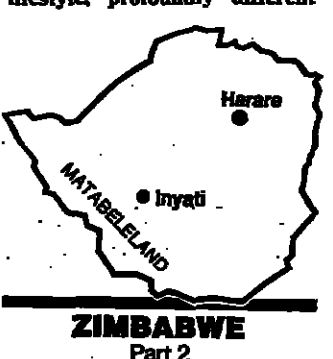
If Mr David Joubert had stayed in his job as a public prosecutor in the Bulawayo Magistrates' Court, he would probably have decided by now to head for South Africa.

The comparatively low civil service salary in independent Zimbabwe would have entailed sending his children to a crowded government school, standing for hours in bus queues, and living in a small house in an unkempt and noisy neighbourhood.

He would have been forced to adapt to a middle-class black lifestyle, profoundly different



Land of plenty: Mr Joubert and his son, Brendan, wondering how long it will last.



from his own because it has its roots in the poverty of rural African villages and the street life of urban black townships.

Thus he would probably have joined the exodus of an estimated 100,000 other whites - including his sister - whose jobs, homes and children's school places have been filled by black Zimbabweans.

Instead, he became a farmer. Through hard work, a natural ability for fast business and a

willingness to gamble he, like many in Zimbabwe's white community of about 120,000, has what is often boasted of as the finest lifestyle in the world.

At 36, Mr Joubert owns a block of farms, about 80 miles north of Bulawayo, amounting to a staggering 110,000 acres.

"We've had to accept certain things in this country," he said. "We are orientating ourselves to deal with the shortcomings. I don't want to and won't ever have to leave."

Most of the land was bought after 1982, when Matabeleland was in the grip of probably the worst violence it has seen since the turn of the century, when

the impis of Ndebele King Lobengula laid waste much of the country.

Guerrillas and Zimbabwean security forces stand accused collectively of the deaths of thousands of civilians in the region, in the thinly disguised political struggle between the ruling Zanu (PF) party of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, and Zanu, the opposition party of Mr Joshua Nkomo.

Unsentimentally, Mr Joubert bought Portwe estate, formerly owned by Mr Benji Williams, who was murdered by Gilbert Ngwenya, the guerrilla commander who ab-

ducted and had six foreign tourists killed in July, 1982.

He and his wife, Midge, and their 14-month old son, Brendan, live in the Williams homestead, a modern, executive-style residence with a lawn and garden.

Mr Joubert made his money in cattle speculating. "I'm into wheeling and dealing business, rather than straight cattle ranching. I didn't do so badly in the last three years of drought, buying cattle small and thin, building them up on feed that's grown here, and then selling them. I'm paying back an awful lot of money for all the land I bought, but in two years, I'll be all square."

Mr Joubert and the other 4,000-odd commercial farmers of Zimbabwe have proved themselves indispensable to the survival of the country. In Mr Mugabe's new year message, they were praised for their "wonderful efforts."

Mr Joubert is still suspicious of Mr Mugabe. "I nearly had a bloody heart attack when the election results were announced," he said. He is disturbed about how long private tenure of land will last under Mr Mugabe's plans for the steady introduction of a socialist economy.

He has also seen the Government's crushing anti-guerrilla campaign close at hand. "We are not maintaining a democratically free state," he said. The struggle between Zanu (PF) and Zanu was being waged by Mr Mugabe "by military subjugation", to the exclusion of any attempt at a political solution.

For all that, he described Mr Mugabe as "the best kind of leader to have in control. Nkomo is an African leader in the traditional sense of Lobengula. He wouldn't be anywhere near Mugabe."

Tomorrow: An urban worker

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Age (nearest)	Amount you pay monthly				
20-30	£5.00	£6.00	£7.35	£10.50	£13.65
31-35	£5.00	£6.20	£7.60	£10.80	£14.00
36-40	£5.40	£6.40	£7.95	£11.25	£14.40
41-45	£6.00	£7.00	£8.40	£12.00	£15.00
46-50	£6.30	£7.40	£8.80	£12.40	£15.40
51-55	£14.70	£16.40	£18.40	£24.00	£28.00

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Crowds weep for Hoxha and his heir vows to maintain fortress Albania

From Dessa Trevisan, Belgrade

As Albania yesterday buried Enver Hoxha, its leader of 40 years, his successor, Mr Ramiz Alia, warned all would-be enemies that "their heads will be smashed against the steel unity of the party".

Mr Alia's first public appearance since being confirmed as first secretary of the Albanian Communist Party, he went out of his way to show himself a worthy disciple of his mentor.

Hoxha, who ruled the tiny Balkan nation with an iron fist, was able in his four decades of supremacy to shed Yugoslavia's tutelage, alliance with the Soviet Union and finally China's too-embracing protection.

Mr Alia yesterday pledged the continuity of Hoxha's policies and praised his achievements, especially in teaching Albanians to deal with enemies: he had told them how to defend both socialism and the nation, and to struggle "without compromise" against the conspiracies and pressures of ideological foes and domestic and foreign enemies alike.

Clearly no radical changes are to be expected in the immediate future. Mr Alia has slammed the door on continued Russian overtures not only by emphasising opposition to the "revisionists" but also, and more spectacularly, by returning telegrams of condolence sent by the Soviet Central Committee.

Not is there any change in Albania's attitude to Yugoslav "revisionism" and more specifically to the continuing fierce dispute over Kosovo; Mr

Alia pledged that Albania would maintain its interest in the plight of fellow Albanians across the border.

It is reasonable to expect that pressure against dissent or possible rivals at home will continue as Mr Alia concentrates on reinforcing his position with the full support of Hoxha's widow, Nedzhmia, who is now regarded as the country's strongest and most influential personality.

The renaming of places and building of monuments is already under way. By state decree, memorials to Hoxha will be erected in the capital, Tirana, as well as in his home town, Djirokastr, and in Korca.

Tirana University will be renamed after him, as will Albania's major Adriatic port, Dures (Durazzo). Albania's Communist youth organization, the Pioneers, will be known as "Enver" Pioneers.



Mr Alia: Continuity is first priority.

● Hundreds of thousands of Albanians yesterday gathered in Skanderbeg Square in central Tirana and lined the funeral route to the Martyrs of the Homeland cemetery above the city, according to Ata, the official news agency (AP reports).

No foreign delegations were present as Hoxha, who died on Thursday aged 76, was carried on gun carriage draped in the national flag. In a break with diplomatic custom, Albania has said foreigners would not be welcome.

Family members and leading politicians paid homage to the body, which had been lying in state at the Hall of the Presidium and in the People's Assembly.

● Reuters correspondent Richard Belforth, who watched the funeral on Albanian television at the Yugoslav border town of Prizren, said Mrs Hoxha sobbed as the coffin was lowered into the hillside grave in heavy rain near the Mother of Albania statue. Mr Alia appeared to be weeping.

The cortege was led by an honour guard of soldiers, sailors and airmen and, followed by Mrs Hoxha, supported by Mr Alia and her son, Hoxha's sister, said by Albanian sources to be married to the new leader, was also among the principal mourners.

Television viewers saw a startling incident in a state officially declared atheist. An old woman came forward from the crowd and made the sign of the cross before kissing the coffin.



Killers praised: Extremist Sikhs at an Amritsar rally acclaim in song the assassins of Indira Gandhi.

Business replacing socialism in India's new order

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, paraded his new economic order in front of a gathering of Indian and Western businessmen yesterday in a determined attempt to attract more foreign investment to help impel his country into the 21st century.

Mr Gandhi made much of the changes he has installed in India's business environment since he came to power nearly six months ago, almost all of

which have been in the ultra-modern electronic and new technological industries. He also dwelt on India's past economic successes and its stability and political maturity.

"We in India are today in a position from which we can move ahead fairly rapidly," Mr Gandhi said. He declared that though self-sufficiency was their goal, "we will need help from our friends in other countries". He concluded: "We look ahead to challenging the developed economies."

The Indian Prime Minister was speaking in the chandelier-lit ballroom of a brand new five-star hotel on the southern fringe of the capital. He was addressing the EMF foundation, a Swiss-based forum of European businessmen and industrialists. His remarks were a far cry from the socialist/dogmatic tone of most other Indian leaders since independence.

He told his audience that the sixth Indian five-year plan, just ended, had maintained a growth

rate in real terms of 5 per cent of gross domestic product, and that a further 5 per cent a year was being forecast during the next five years. He considered that this was extraordinarily good, considering the unfavourable conditions in the rest of the world.

Mr Gandhi, speaking fluently in businessmen's jargon, admitted to some failures. "Our industries are not as efficient as others," he said. "The cost of production is very high. In

many areas there is technological stagnation."

But he promised to open the economic environment to competition from outside.

He described India's problems as population and poverty. But he declared: "We have tackled population growth on a war footing. For the first time it is under 2 per cent."

He said poverty, too, was falling. "We have steadily been reducing the number of people below the poverty line since independence," he said.

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Warsaw Pact leaders to renew alliance

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Warsaw Pact leaders will meet here in 10 days to renew their military alliance, the first Soviet bloc summit since the Kremlin accession of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, sources disclosed yesterday.

Preparations are already under way and the authorities have drawn up security and communications plans. Marshal Sergei Sokolov, the Soviet Defence Minister, concluded a four-day visit to Poland at the weekend which diplomats believe was both to inspect combat readiness of Polish military units and to put the finishing touches to the summit preparations.

Several clues - reservation of telex lines by East European news agencies, cancelling of holidays in the security forces - have pointed to the most likely summit date being April 25 and

26. The pact runs out at the end of May, but many leaders would like to sign the treaty, almost certainly renewing it for 20 years, before May Day. Poland is in any case prone to Solidarity demonstrations on May Day, already called for by the underground, and on May 3.

There have been many differences between Pact members about the exact terms of renewal. Romania, for example, has wanted to use the expiry date to press for more democratic discussion within the alliance and gain as short a period of renewal as possible.

After some intra-bloc bargaining, these differences have been resolved, or at least submerged: statements by the Romanian leader, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, Mr Janos Kadar of Hungary and General Jaruzelski

of Poland all express a certainty that the Pact will be renewed.

First attempts to arrange a summit to renew the 30-year-old Pact were made in January but seem to have been delayed by Konstantin Chernenko's illness.

The summit is expected to be attended by Communist Party chiefs, including Mr Gorbachev, although diplomats suggest there is still the remote possibility of it being scaled down to heads of government. Defence ministers and probably foreign ministers will also be there.

Mr Gorbachev is expected to expand on his proposal for a moratorium on missile deployment in Eastern Europe - an offer treated with scepticism by the West which believes it is old wine in old bottles, a way of freezing the Soviet bloc nuclear

advantage. The Pact will also reaffirm that it is prepared to dissolve itself if Nato does the same.

Poles, still uninformed about the summit by the official press, are beginning to suspect there is something in the wind. Sunday night's main evening news was almost entirely devoted to Soviet items, a special season of Polish-Soviet culture has been opened - crowding screens, if not seats, with Russian films - and the Politburo has instructed the party daily, *Trybuna Ludu*, to carry more articles emphasising indissoluble friendship between Poland and the Soviet Union.

Although individual Soviet bloc leaders have visited Warsaw since the lifting of martial law, a summit would represent a full rehabilitation of Poland within the Soviet alliance.

Pravda has high hopes for UK ties

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Communist Party daily, *Pravda*, painted an optimistic picture of Anglo-Soviet relations yesterday, saying ties were improving and bilateral trade was set to grow "on a large scale".

Pravda's London correspondent, Mr Arkady Maslennikov, wrote that both sides believed Britain had a greater role to play in East-West relations.

Bilateral trade could develop to the advantage of both nations, especially if Britain lifted import duties and a ban on the export of strategic goods to Moscow, he added.

Western diplomats said the article underlined their assessment that Moscow was keen to stress favourable ties with Western Europe to help drive a wedge between the continent and the United States.

In December, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, now the Soviet leader, visited Britain.

Glomp sees Pope over Vatican slurs

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

Cardinal Jozef Glomp, the Polish primate, travelled yesterday to Rome for an audience with the Pope in the midst of a fierce Church-State argument over Press attacks on the pontiff.

The Catholic Church has detected an escalation of the official campaign against the Pope since the New Year. In Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, it is common official practice to accuse the pontiff of being anti-Marxist and in league with President Reagan but such attacks have been rare in Poland, the Pope's homeland.

Cardinal Glomp, speaking on Sunday, accused the Polish Communist leadership of planting "bitter allegations about the holy Father", often not taking into account the "warm feelings" the whole nation had for the Pope.

The Church has taken the unusual step of letting a writer close to the Church hierarchy draft, under a pseudonym, a rebuttal to current attacks on the Pope. The article was circulated unofficially lest it be

censored before its planned publication this week in the Catholic newspaper *Przegląd Katolicki*.

The rebuttal said official articles had tried to give the impression that there was now ideological co-operation between the Vatican and the United States and that contents of the Pope's sermons were anti-Polish and anti-Soviet.

As social moods deteriorated - especially since October 1984 when Father Popieluszko was murdered, this view was moving to "the vanguard of the information war," it added. The official status granted to lay Catholics, it went on, could divert the attention of many Poles from the long years of socio-economic neglect, increasing symptoms of social malaise, widespread poverty, deteriorating health and working conditions, the poor quality of work and the lack of approval for the government programme for avoiding "the catastrophe which is inevitable if this policy of seeking arguments rather

than reconciliation, war rather than peace, continues".

These strong words, and the importance of Cardinal Glomp's visit to Rome at this time, reflect the size of the rift between Church and State. On the Cardinal's agenda in his contacts with the Vatican are:

● The pressure exerted on individual priests, including the burning of a young priest sympathetic to Solidarity, Father Tadeusz Zalecki.

● The role of the Church in parliamentary elections later this year. Informal contacts between the Government and lay Catholics have raised suspicions that the authorities are trying to split the Church by offering some Catholics the right to a political club, the equivalent of a political party.

● Whether the moment is right for a meeting between the primate and the Polish leader, General Jaruzelski.

● Whether Communist Governments are acting in unison in their attacks on the Vatican and the Church.

War brides gather for nostalgia and research

Long Beach, California (NYT) - Nearly 40 years after VE day, 300 women who still think of themselves as war brides and their husbands gathered here for an historic meeting on the Queen Mary, one of the troop ships that became bride ships after World War Two.

Most of the brides were British-born and many got their first glimpse of this country from the decks of the Queen Mary, now an hotel and tourist attraction moored just south of Los Angeles.

"We had our own baby boom," said Patricia Sullivan, a widow from Orlando, Florida, who travelled to the gathering in a wheelchair. "There were clothes-lines stretched the length of this ship with nappies drying in the wind. It was a sight to behold."

The small flags on the brides' name tags showed their countries of origin, something their accents did not always reveal.

Maria Spinoso, of Staten Island, New York, was there with a wedding dress of parachute silk and the soldier she married in Cergnola, Italy. Katovina Militeff, of Brook-

lyn, was there with the soldier who spotted her on a park bench in Germany and called, "Hey, Fraulein, want some American chocolate?"

Denise Schorr, of Natick, Massachusetts, who fought in the French underground in Paris and later became the first French woman to marry an American officer was there too.

Jorgen Nielsen, of Seattle, was the only war bridegroom present. A Dane, he was working for the US War Department in Munich when he fell in love with Virginia McDaniel, who was in the Coast Guard.

On Saturday, he was presented with a T-shirt that read "I was a male war bride".

The two-day gathering, which ended on Sunday, was mostly light and nostalgic, with brides breaking into impromptu choruses of "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition" and kicking off their shoes to jitterbug to 1940s bands.

It was part of a research project, however, the results of which will be housed in the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger library on the history of women in America. There, in Cambridge, Massachusetts,



Dance of time: Moya Lindstrom, originally from Bournemouth, with her husband Sven at the reunion.

Mrs Spinoso's wedding dress will be enshrined with the rest of the war bride memorabilia that was on display around the ship - official documents, newspaper clippings, photographs.

The project, like the meeting, is the work of two daughters of war brides, Ellie Shukert and Barbara Schetta.

Hu warned to ease up on Vietnam

From Tony Dabondin, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, yesterday urged China not to isolate Vietnam, warning that it could endanger the stability of the region.

Addressing a parliamentary reception for Mr Hu Yaobang, the visiting Chinese party leader, who is considered the likely successor to Mr Deng Xiaoping, Mr Hawke said Australia would continue to do what it could to encourage a solution to the Cambodian problem. The issue had poisoned relations between China and Vietnam.

"We must all face the fact that our achievements will be at risk if there remains in the region an isolated country, at loggerheads with others and tied virtually exclusively to the Soviet Union and its allies. ... We must seek to make available options and the opportunities for Vietnam to diversify its relations."

Mr Hawke also praised China's recent achievements and said there were mutual opportunities for Australia and China.

● PEKING: A speech Mr Hu made two months ago to the party secretariat, condemning "spiritual pollution", has been published in full in the *People's Daily* (Mary Lee writes).

He defined such contamination as "corruption by the decadent ideas of the exploiting classes" and the pollutants as "feudal superstitions and the decadent ideas of capitalism under the cover of informativeness and interest".

The timing suggests that party propagandists are taking advantage of Mr Hu's highly publicised tour of Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific countries to promote his image in China.

Differences with US but no divorce, Lange says

Delhi (Reuters) - Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, said yesterday that despite differences with the United States over nuclear arms, the two countries would never "divorce".

"There have been reports of America trying to destabilize the New Zealand Government", Mr Lange told a Press conference in the Indian capital.

"The reports are not correct. America is a major trading ally. We share principles of democracy, respect for human rights and while there can be differences from time to time, there can never be a divorce."

New Zealand, allied to Australia and the United States

Differences with US but no divorce, Lange says

in the Anzus pact, insists that foreign vessels entering its waters must not be nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered.

● PEKING: China said yesterday that US conventionally powered warships could make a planned call at a Chinese port but it avoided mention of whether they would or would not carry nuclear arms (Reuters reports).

The statement seemed to back down from controversial remarks by Mr Hu Yaobang, the Communist party chief, last week when he said there had been an understanding between the United States and China that nuclear arms would not be carried.

Moldavia sacks 'mercenary' party official

Moscow (Reuters) - A high-ranking Moldavian Communist Party official has been sacked for using his position "for mercenary aims".

Sovietsay. Moldavia said a party session in the south-western Soviet Republic on Thursday had dismissed Mr Vasily Vyshku from the regional government.

He is the latest in a series of local party officials to lose their jobs in a drive launched by the new party leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, to weed out corrup-

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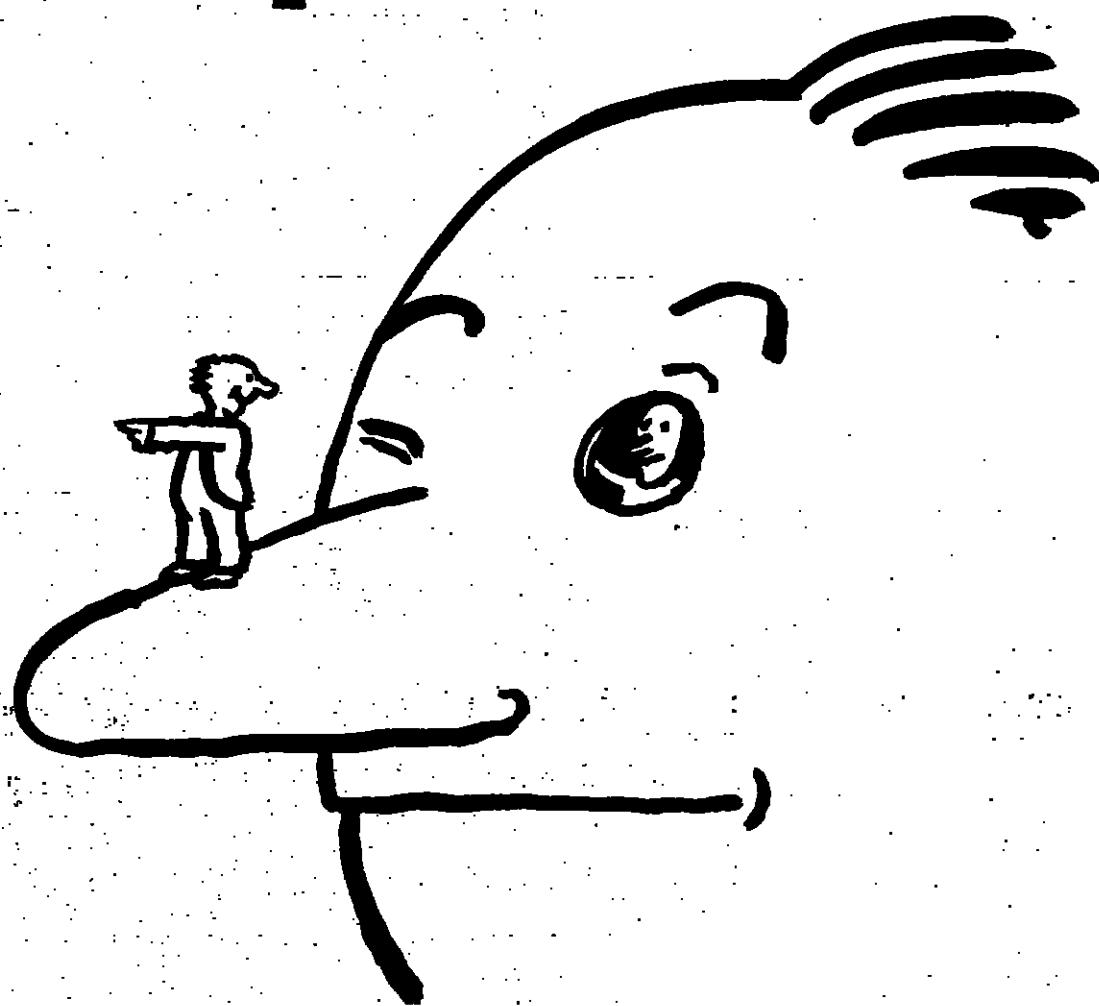
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Reagan tour gaffes force White House rethink of European itinerary

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan, fresh from a 10-day holiday in California, returned to his office in the White House yesterday to face the continuing controversy caused by the decision to lay a wreath at a German military cemetery on May 5.

Mr Reagan's aides, aware that what was intended as a gesture of reconciliation to West Germany, has turned into a huge public relations gaffe, have been dropping hints that he may be prepared to adjust the itinerary of his state visit to West Germany.

This would probably not mean abandoning the visit to the German cemetery at Bitburg, near the Luxembourg border, but adding a visit to the Belsen concentration camp, or to a synagogue.

But such a move would not quell the ire of American veterans' organizations upset that Mr Reagan will not be visiting any of the American war cemeteries in the area.

Veterans have been particularly upset by reports from Moscow that the cemetery contains the graves of SS men responsible for massacring US prisoners of war during bitter fighting in the Ardennes towards the end of the war.

The president is said to be upset by the furore over the visit, and particularly at the anger it has caused among Jewish organizations.

The White House yesterday stressed that he has already taken part in the days of remembrance with the US Holocaust Memorial Council.

This week he will also take part in a ceremony to designate Jewish Heritage Week and will present the Congressional Gold

Medal to Mr Elie Wiesel, a noted theologian and writer on the Holocaust.

Not only his visit to West Germany is causing upset: Mr Reagan's plans to address the European Parliament in Strasbourg have offended two European leaders, President Pertini of Italy and President Mitterrand of France.

President Pertini was reportedly upset that Mr Reagan has taken the spotlight from him. The Italian president had been due to address the Parliament at the time of Italy's presidency of the European Council of Ministers. He will now do so in June.

President Mitterrand is said to be dismayed by Mr Reagan's failure to inform him in advance of his decision to visit France to address the Parliament. He will not attend the speech.

What has particularly rankled the French is that in the autumn President Mitterrand urged Mr Reagan to visit France after attending the Bonn economic summit, and had offered to welcome him either in Paris or Bordeaux.

The man responsible for arranging the President's itinerary is Mr Michael Deaver, the deputy White House chief of staff, who himself provoked a controversy by using his diplomatic privileges to buy West German cars at cut rates during a planning trip to Europe earlier this year.

Mr Deaver is due to leave the White House and return to a large public relations business after the President's 10-day four-nation European tour.

● BONN: Much of the embarrassment seems to have been caused by a lack of basic information on the part of Mr Deaver, who apparently thought Americans as well as Germans were buried at Bitburg (Frank Johnson writes).

In fact, there are only Germans, 2,000 of whom died in the Ardennes offensive.

During that offensive, 100 American prisoners of war were murdered by the SS at Malmédy in Belgium. Their commander, the late SS General Dietrich, was imprisoned for this crime after the war. *Pravda* has been implying that perpetrators of that atrocity lay buried at Bitburg. Both West German and American sources were clearly hoping yesterday that there is no way of proving that.

There are clear signs of fear in Bonn that Mr Reagan will be prevailed on to drop the visit to the cemetery.

Government sources are quoted as saying that this would be a "severe setback to German-American relations" and that "only the professional anti-Americans would rejoice."

The Government spokesman, Herr Peter Bönisch, said yesterday that: "We would welcome a visit to the site of a concentration camp to honour the victims of Nazism."

He refused to answer questions about whether SS men were buried at Bitburg. "That is not the point," he said. But he took care to make it known that the German soldiers under discussion were killed at the end of the war, by which time ordinary troops were being sent into the SS; it was no longer an elite volunteer force of Nazis.



Youth and experience: Señor Alan García Pérez casting his vote in Lima while his fellow countryman, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, with this wife, made their choices in New York.

Peru turns left but run-off predicted

Lima (Reuters) - Peru took a sharp swing to the left after a tough election campaign dominated by issues of economic hardship, television projections showed yesterday.

Official results were not available, but analysts said the television forecast showed that Sunday's elections had dealt a crushing defeat to the conservative Popular Action party (AP) of President Fernando Belaúnde Terry.

Based on a nationwide sample of votes cast, the social democratic APRA party took a big lead but failed to clinch the overall majority needed to give its leader, Señor Alan García Pérez, the presidency.

The forecast gave him 48 per cent of the vote.

Th Mayor of Lima, Dr Alfonso Barrantes Lingán, of the Marxist-led United Left (IU) followed with 23.5 per cent, while the AP candidate, Señor Javier Alva Orlandini, trailed with only five per cent. If confirmed by the official count, it would force the two leading candidates into a run-off.

Ballot boxes from 42,500 polling stations will be taken to the capital of each of Peru's 24 departments. Official counting begins today and the National Electoral Board has up to 30 days to collate the results.

APRA appeared to have wrested control of the 60-seat Senate, previously dominated by AP and the conservative Popular Christian Party. APRA and IU are also likely to hold most seats in the Chamber of Deputies, previously controlled by AP.

Señor Alan García, aged 35, who has no previous government experience, admitted to a dismayed APRA rally that he might not have clinched the absolute majority.

He and Dr Barrantes want to reduce repayments on Peru's \$13.5 billion (about £10 billion) debt, raise taxes on foreign oil companies and expand ties with communist countries.

30 die and homes blaze as riots hit Sri Lanka

Colombo (Reuters) - At least 30 people have been killed and more than 700 homes set ablaze in five days of fighting between Muslims and Tamils in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province.

Police said about 10,000 people had fled their homes and were sheltering in government schools hastily turned into refugee camps. About 40 people were wounded in the clashes were receiving hospital treatment. A 14-hour night curfew is being reimposed in Akkaraipattu, the worst affected town.

The trouble erupted after separatist Tamil guerrillas shot dead three Muslims, two of whom were praying at a mosque, in the north-western town of Mannar last week.

Algerian leader in Washington

Washington - President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria arrived here for the first official visit by an Algerian leader since independence in 1962 (Nicholas Ashford writes). He will meet President Reagan tomorrow.

The Americans are anxious to cultivate ties with Algeria, the largest and most influential nation in North Africa, in order to offset the political consequences of Morocco's flirtation with Libya.

Alcoholics fear

Helsinki (Reuters) - Finnish medical sources expressed concern for alcoholics unable to get hard liquor because of a 17-day strike by staff of the state monopoly. The black market price of liquor topped \$60 (about £50) a litre.

Pole defects

Tarbes (Reuters) - Bongonik Włodarski, a Polish violinist on tour with the Lodz Philharmonic orchestra, has asked for political asylum in France.

Heart man ill

Louisville, Kentucky (AP) - Mr Jack Burcham, the world's fifth and oldest artificial heart patient, bled during the night and had to have approximately 21 pints of blood replaced. He remained in critical condition.

Buses burnt

Karachi (Reuters) - More than 3,000 students clashed with police and set fire to eight buses after two girls students were run over and killed by a bus here.

Pope for Africa

Rome (Reuters) - The Pope is to visit six African countries in August: Kenya, Zaire, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Togo and Morocco. Exact dates have not been fixed.

Crew rescued

Belgrade (AP) - A Yugoslav ship rescued a burning Greek freighter's 23-man crew off the Sierra Leone coast last Friday, it was reported here. Some of the Greek crew suffered minor injuries, including burns.

Nurses strike

Delhi (AP) - More than 1,300 nurses have gone on an indefinite strike for higher wages, resulting in severe disruption of health services at one of Delhi's largest hospitals.

Seven police die

Bogotá (Reuters) - Colombian guerrillas killed seven policemen in two separate attacks on police outposts. Five, including a lieutenant, died in a six-hour gun battle at Toribio, in the central province of Cauca.

Army sent to relieve Sidon units

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

At long last, the Lebanese Army sent reinforcements to its outgunned units in Sidon yesterday as the civil war between pro-Israeli Christian militias and government troops, themselves supported by Muslim gunmen, grew more intense.

Shellfire enveloped much of the city during the day. At least two men were killed and eight people, including several women, wounded by an artillery round which detonated in a square in a Shia Muslim suburb, but other shells exploded near Riad Solh Street in the city centre.

Whether or not the increased bombardment, from Christian guns on the hills east of the city, had anything to do with the Army's reinforcements, it came as something of a shock when 20 of the 30 armoured troop carriers sent to Sidon drove through the city and continued south to the Zahran river - where there is no fighting at all.

The Army's new deployment in the south came after hours of negotiation between the Army Command and militias in Sidon. The 30 armoured vehicles drove down the coast road from Beirut airport - where they have been standing idle for two weeks - and 10 were driven into the Sidon barracks after crossing the Awar river.

Army positions east of the city were reported in the late afternoon to have come under intense shellfire from Christian artillery near the Israeli front line.

There was, however, little doubt about the political persuasion of the troops who travelled south yesterday. One soldier said he was going to the town of Nabatiya - newly evacuated by the Israelis - to hit the enemy (the Israelis) as best we can.

Several armoured vehicles had guerrilla slogans chalked on their sides. The "Bride of the South", said one in apparent reference to the woman suicide bomber who drove a car-load of explosives into an Israeli convoy a week ago.

Clouds of black smoke were rising from several suburbs of Sidon last night, the shells destroying any hope that the new deployment would coincide with another ceasefire.

Two ambulances collecting Shia Muslim civilians wounded in Haret Saïda Square were hit by bullets. The casualty toll for the day included at least five dead and 12 wounded.

Bombers 'still in Spain'

From Our Correspondent, Madrid

Police suspect that the Islamic Jihad activists responsible for the restaurant bomb which killed 18 people here may have diplomatic cover, the Madrid daily newspaper, *El País*, reported yesterday.

The bombers are still believed to be in Spain.

Pointing out that Jihad (Holy War) comprises a number of Shia terrorist groups, *El País* said police suspect that some of these terrorist groups enjoy

Single vote keeps Israeli unity

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Israel's seven-month-old National Unity Government pulled back from the brink of dissolution yesterday when the full cabinet, by 13 votes to 12, reversed Sunday's decision and authorized a "goodwill mission" to Cairo by Mr Ezer Weizman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party and Mr Yigael Hurwitz of the Ometz, who abstained in Sunday's 10-9 defeat, saved the Government yesterday by voting for the mission.

They switched after Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, had warned his colleagues that the Government could not continue in office if the mission was aborted since he had already informed the Egyptians that Mr Weizman would go.

Professor Amnon Rubinstein of Shinui, who was absent on

The Inner Cabinet

The Inner Cabinet, officially called the Ministerial Committee for Security, comprises the following 10 members: Mr Shimon Peres, Prime Minister; Mr Yitzhak Navon, Education and Deputy Prime Minister; Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Defence; Mr Haim Barlev, Police; Mr Ezer Weizman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office; (all of the Labour Alignment); Mr Yitzhak Shasun, vice-Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs; Mr David Levy, Construction and Housing; and Deputy Prime Minister; Mr Moshe Arens, without portfolio; Mr Yitzhak Moda'i, Finance; and Mr Ariel Sharon, Industry and Trade (all of Likud).

Sunday also voted with Labour while the 10 Likud ministers were backed by the representatives of two religious parties. Likud ministers had opposed

the mission as an intrusion into the sphere of competence of their leader, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister.

They fought it to a deadlock in the 10-man inner cabinet yesterday morning, then appealed unsuccessfully to the Attorney-General against Mr Peres's decision to poll all 25 ministers by telephone and also objected to counting the proxy vote of Mr Gad Yaskoby, who was out of the country.

It was obvious, however, that relations between Mr Peres and Mr Shamir had soured considerably, boding ill for the future of the Government which, under the coalition agreement, was to serve until 1988 with Mr Peres and Mr Shamir switching jobs in September 1986.

Mr Weizman will not be competent to negotiate in Cairo on behalf of the Government but is likely to sound out Egyptians on political questions

Man pulled from mouth of Vesuvius

Naples (AP) - Italian and American rescue teams, using winches and steel cables, yesterday pulled a US Navy seaman out of the mouth of Mount Vesuvius where he had been trapped overnight.

The sailor had climbed down the jagged slope of the dormant volcano on Sunday afternoon to help another US seaman who had fallen on to a ledge 350 feet below.

Lieutenant-Commander Skip Calvert, spokesman for the US naval support facilities at Naples, identified the rescued sailor as Seaman Brett Jacobs of Kansas City, from the frigate USS McDonnell.

He said seaman Jacobs had discovered his colleague dead, but he found the slope too steep to climb back up. The identity of the dead man was being withheld pending notification of the next of kin, Commander Calvert said, but the Italian news agency ANSA identified him as Dale Unterhill, aged 20.

Seaman Jacobs managed to stay warm overnight by moving to a spot heated by a steam vent, the spokesman said. A combination of wind, thick fog and a lack of light had prevented the rescue team from reaching him until 6.30 am yesterday.

The sailor was taken to the US naval hospital in Naples, "shaken up and suffering from exposure," but he was released later, Commander Calvert said.

He said the body of the dead seaman was pulled out by Italian firemen, aided by dozens of policemen and some crew members from the frigate.

Doctors unable to save unconscious Neves

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

There is nothing more doctors can do for Brazil's President-elect, Senhor Tancredino Neves. An official spokesman said yesterday that it was a question of "minutes, hours or at the most days" before the end came.

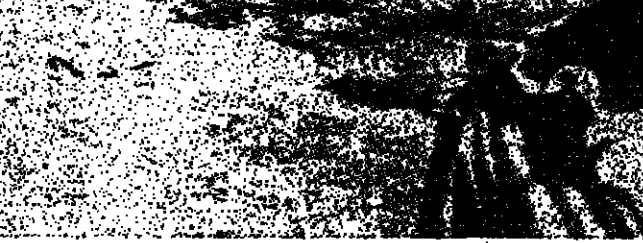
Senhor Neves, aged 75, was no longer responding to treatment. During an acute crisis on Sunday, electric shocks were given to stabilize his heartbeat.

The spokesman said Senhor Neves was not being kept alive by the respirator and kidney dialysis machines to which he was connected. But he admitted

that if the pure oxygen being administered was withdrawn, his weakened lungs, the main concern, would not continue to function adequately and his heart would not then stand the strain.

Apart from moments of lucidity on Friday, Senhor Neves, who is heavily sedated, has been unconscious since his seventh operation in 28 days, on Thursday.

Doctors have decided against an eighth operation, to try to stop the advance of infection. A Mass, attended by all his family, was said by three priests



Demolition of Crossroads starts

A woman squatter from the Crossroads camp looks over the area round her new tent home on a South African Government site at Kaylitsa two miles away. She was one of the first people to be moved after demolition work had started on the Crossroads camp yesterday.

With the help of a soup kitchen and disco music, 50 black families left Crossroads peacefully (AP reports).

Thousands of curious blacks watched as the first shacks were torn down, their only sign of opposition being a single stone from a slingshot. When completed months from now, the exodus from Crossroads could involve 75,000 people. It could become South Africa's biggest single, population removal in the 37 years since the Government began moving millions of blacks, Coloureds and Asians from established communities under the apartheid policy.

The Government hopes that the removal will end Crossroads' role as a battleground between police trying to restrict black immigration from tribal homelands, and squatters struggling to stay near the white city of Cape Town, where they can find jobs.

Place kept for Garang in Cabinet

From Harry Debelius, Khartoum

At the stroke of noon here yesterday the man who led the Sudanese Communist Party from clandestinity to legality and introduced Eurocommunism "self-excluded himself" from the party with 18 other central committee members, a party spokesman said.

The spokesman, Señor Andrué Claret, said the central committee "will adopt pertinent measures" at its Thursday meeting to remove from party posts Señor Santiago Carrillo, aged 70, and those who support him.

Señor Claret said that Señor Carrillo, a former secretary-general, and his followers had been given 15 days to cease their opposition to the party leadership. The deadline was passed yesterday with no sign of change in their attitude.

Señor Carrillo, a party militant since 1936 when he was the public-order chief of the defence committee in Republican Madrid, told cheering leftists at a Madrid rally on Sunday that he will continue to use the name and party hammer-and-sickle symbol, and will present candidates under the party name for the next election.

He described its present leaders, including his former protégé, Señor Gerardo Iglesias, secretary-general as "Philistines," and said that they had taken over the party by a coup.

"I don't want to knock down the temple, the party, as Samson did," said the old Communist, using a Biblical image familiar in largely Roman Catholic Spain, "but I will not stop fighting until I've thrown the Philistines out of the temple."

At another point he switched

Spanish communists set to expel founding father

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

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to fiery revolutionary terminology far from his Eurocommunist position of a few years ago, and accused Señor Iglesias and the "dictatorship of the secretariat" of destroying the party to please the bourgeoisie.

At the same time, in Oviedo, in northern Spain, Señor Iglesias told his own supporters: "These persons in reality have already left the party, and therefore they will be removed from organisms of the direction."

The final rupture between the "Carrillistas" and the "Gerardistas" has come after more than two years of bitter internal dispute. The split is expected to result in the creation of yet another communist party - but with the confusing characteristic of having the same name.

Señor Carrillo plans to reunite the various splinter parties, including the pro-Moscow group which broke away last year, and the Basque Communist Party, which ironically virtually disintegrated and broke away as a result of expulsions decreed by Señor Carrillo himself.

Apartheid sex laws to go

From Gerald Shaw, Cape Town

South Africa's decision to scrap the laws prohibiting marriage and sexual relations across the colour line is a move of considerable symbolic importance.

It will cause trauma in right-wing Afrikaner circles. The legislation is deeply rooted in the Afrikaner nationalist psyche. It sprang from the fear in the 1930s of miscegenation among "poor white" Afrikaners, a class that has all but disappeared.

The two acts were among the legislative foundation stones of apartheid, as laid in the first decade after Afrikaner nationalists' coming to power in 1948.

These are the first basic apartheid laws to go. Inevitably, their scrapping will lead to increasing pressure for the others to go. They include the Group Areas Act, which provides racial zoning of residential and business areas. There is also the Population Registration Act, which set up the racial

classification deemed necessary for smooth functioning of the other apartheid laws.

Above all else, however, apartheid has meant legislation by which the black African majority is deprived of South African citizenship and political rights in the central parliament and is subjected to laws restricting freedom of movement and employment.

While the scrapping of two of the fundamental laws of apartheid can be seen as the thin end of the wedge, it is regarded by a moderate leader such as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg as "mere tinkering" with apartheid. As he and many blacks see it: "The kernel of the issue is political power-sharing."

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Trauma for right-wing Afrikaners

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Although pressure can now be expected to mount for scrapping of the Group Areas and Population Registration Acts, it is clear President Botha is wedded to the principle of

racial separation of residential areas and schools and is unlikely to give way to pressures for repeal as long as he remains in power.

Even if the scrapping of these related laws might appear to be the logical consequence of yesterday's announcement, this is not the way the matter is viewed by the Botha administration.

The anomalies that will arise are expected to be dealt with by way of permits granting ad hoc exemptions from the residential laws to the relatively small number of couples who will marry across the colour line once this is no longer prohibited by law.

The racial zoning laws themselves will be retained.

Yet the scrapping of the laws banning mixed marriages and inter-racial sex is a big breach in the apartheid dike and will, no doubt, lead in time to a sweeping away of the related legislation.

Riot rages in Tehran for three days

By Habbib Tahmoubarian

Iran has confirmed reports that big riots broke out last week in a poor district of south Tehran which the Government had previously claimed was a stronghold of Islamic ideology.

At least one man was killed. The Interior Minister, Hoja-

toleslam, Ali-Akbar Nateq-Nouri, said 300 people were arrested on Wednesday during the disturbance, which started when a woman was mistreated by Revolutionary Guards attached to the Committee of the Islamic Revolution.

He claimed the trouble was

instigated by the Communist Tudeh party, Marxist Fedai (sacrificial) guerrillas, and the Mujahedin party.

The *Times* has established that the riots engulfed the district of Nohdum Aban for three days.

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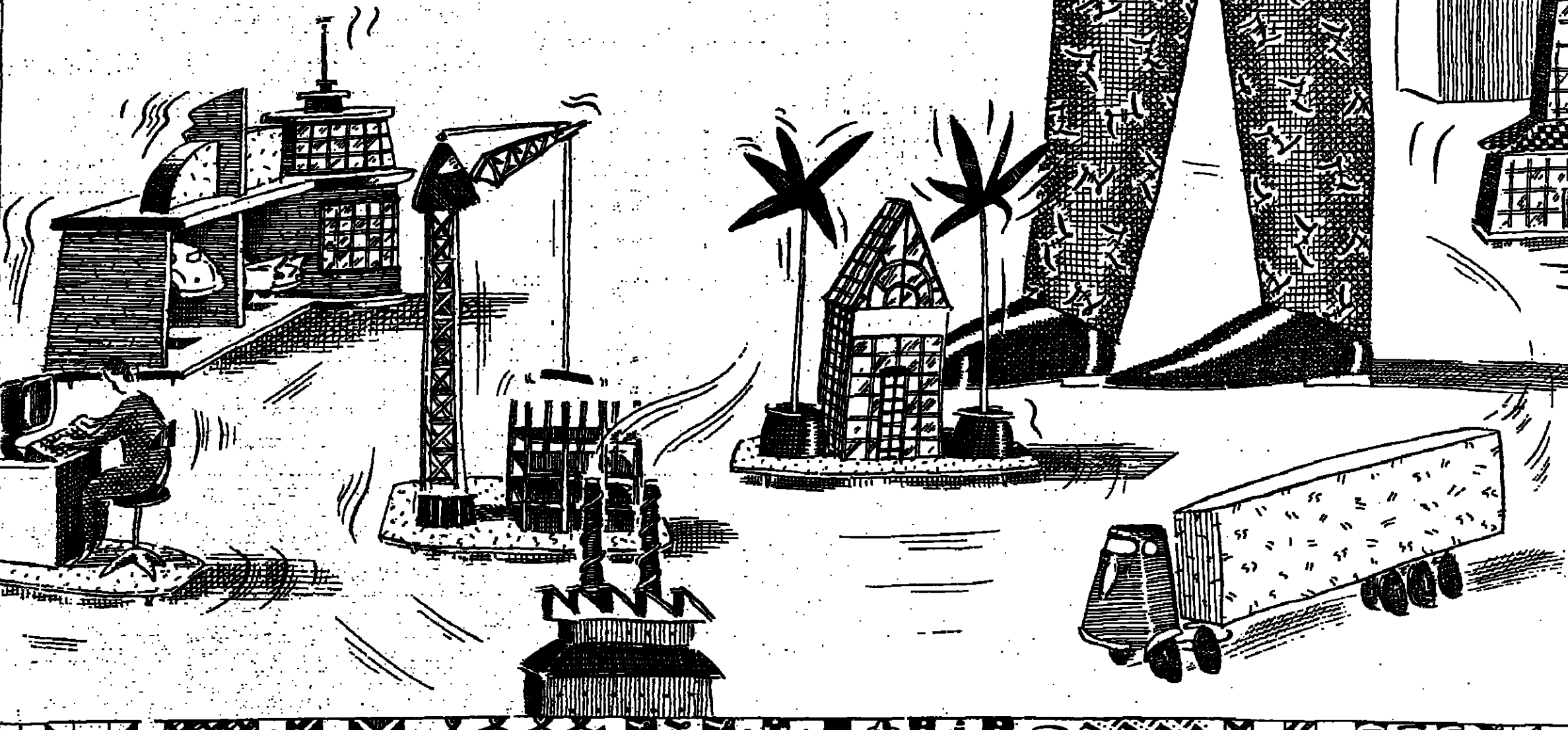
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Alcoholics fear

Pole defects

Heart man

Buses burnt

Pope for Africa

Crew rescued

Nurses strike

Seven police

Afrikaners

three days

THE ARTS

Galleries

Lack of inhibition fit to make the earth tremble



Neizvestny's habitual violence expressed by the gnawing rat in *Self-Portrait*

Ernest Neizvestny
Miro and Spizman Fine Arts

Patrick Caulfield
Waddington

Alex Colville
Canada House

To say that anyone is the most important Russian dissident artist must seem rather like consigning him to the thankless role of a big fish in a very little pond. It is noticeable that, on the evidence that comes out of Russia, the dissidents who stay at home look a lot more superficial and dated in their tangles with modernism than their more conservatively inclined colleagues do with traditional materials. But on the other hand those who leave have on the whole failed to take much obvious advantage of their new-found freedom of artistic expression. The big show of *Unofficial Art from the Soviet Union* seen at the ICA in 1977 excited a lot of attention on political grounds, but aesthetically it landed with a dull thud, including much too much borderline kitsch which would have looked more at home on the park railings than in a serious gallery.

So where does that leave Ernest Neizvestny, to whom the consensus of opinion would give the dubious honour of being the best Russian artist at present in exile? He exhibited in London during the Sixties, when he was still living in Russia, and was included in the ICA anthology the year after he emigrated, but the show of his paintings, drawings and sculptures of the last two decades at an interesting new gallery, Miro and Spizman Fine Arts, until May 10, is the first real opportunity we have had in this country of assessing his work properly. Miro and Spizman, incidentally, at 37 Craven Road, just round the corner from Paddington Station, exists to show contemporary Russian

Art from Russia itself as well as by artists in exile. Mr Spizman once ran an art gallery in Moscow, permitted to show and sell only to foreign visitors, where he was required to exhibit Neizvestny to satisfy foreign curiosity in the early Seventies, before both he and the artist headed westward. One element inevitably lacking from any gallery show of Neizvestny is sheer size. If one may judge by photographs in Erik Egeland's informative book about him (Mosaic Press, £29.95), his sculptural projects in Russia were usually on a gigantic scale, and the major schemes carried out, such as the Monument to the World's Children at Artek in the Crimea and the sculptural wall at the Communist Party headquarters in Ashkhabad, are almost equally vast. But size and scale are different things, and even in the smallest works one can sense the gargantuan scale of Neizvestny's ideas.

His is not an art which has much room or time for niceties and delicacies: no more than the Mexican revolutionary muralists like Orozco and Rivera (who must have been important influences) does he place much store on quietness and good taste when it comes to slamming his message across. His human figures (or humanoids; among the most powerful images in the show is the monumental robot *Dancer*, one of a series of paintings on kindred subjects) are always by implication enormous, engaged in galvanic action of some kind, and are always aggressively histrionic. Crucifixion comes high on his register of motifs, and frequently happenings in his works are only marginally less violent: in the largest *Self-Portrait*, for instance, there is a large rat which appears to have just gnawed away his right eye.

The obvious trap for this kind of art is bombast, and it must be said that at times Neizvestny skirts it by only a hair's-breadth. His great advantage is that he seems totally unaware of or unconcerned about the danger. There is a splendid lack of inhibition in these strongly coloured

paintings and prints, with their heavy outlines and intricate, action-packed compositions. And it is always clear, anyway, that Neizvestny is first and foremost a sculptor: many of the paintings are closely related to sculptural projects, and even when they are not the sculptural tinge to the imagination is very palpable. He is interested in war and destruction, but one feels that only Armageddon would be enough. He is also interested in sex, but any coupling has to be cosmic. He loves centaurs, but the whole earth must tremble as they pass. It is a big talent, but then, to get away with half of this, it has to be. And even so, it is not written anywhere that you have to like it. Indeed, some might dislike it intensely. But few are likely to remain completely unmoved.

Who could be more unlike the ebullient, assertive Neizvestny than the shy and meticulous Patrick Caulfield, whose latest work is on show at Waddington until April 27? Except in this one particular: that his pictorial exploration of the bad-taste interior, the cheap Italian/French restaurant or the DIY-decorated suburban semi has gone so far in his recent pictures that they are likely sometimes to make delicate souls as queasy as the originals they attack (record? celebrate?). All the elements from earlier works come together with stunning virtuoso effect: the boldly-outlined stencil simplifications, the lovingly detailed advertisement-style rendering of a bowl of prawn salad or a Victorian-roccoco coffee pot, even the minutely accurate reproduction of a Morris wallpaper set next to a soft-focus finish on brushed plaster. It is, extraordinary and impressive to see a painter who knows so precisely what he is doing and why. But, again, admiring is one thing and actually liking another.

Alex Colville, now, is a painter it is difficult not to like. The show of his work at Canada House Cultural Centre Gallery until May 7 is only a selection from the imposing retrospective which has toured Canada and Germany in the last two years (12



Aggressively histrionic: the hurtling, galvanic action of Neizvestny's monumental robot *Dancer*

paintings as against 57, for instance), but it does include some of Colville's most famous paintings, such as the self-portrait *Target Pistol and Man*, *Main Street* (with the suburban ladies loading groceries into the car boot) and *Professor of Romance Languages* (a stout and most unromantic man posed in profile against a factory chimney), and also brings us up to date from the Canadian show with some very recent work. The balance, in any case, is very satisfactory: the paintings are combined with numerous sketches for same (enormously varied, as though in deliberate riposte to anyone who supposes that Colville simply copies photographs) and with lithographs and serigraphs, to make a show which implies much more than it states, and provides the perfect introduction to the painter's work as a whole.

Colville, as you may gather from the foregoing, is a sort of surrealist, but it is evident even at a glance that such a label covers by no means all that he does. His canvases are so carefully composed, with such posi-

tive use of negative space, and the colours are so delicately muted and harmonized, that even without the tangible evidence of the thinking behind the paintings one would be left in little doubt that it was there. Occasionally one may sense a limitation in the draughtsmanship (he has not, certainly, managed to get the horse jumping a ditch quite right) and wonder for a fleeting moment whether the reproductions are not sometimes preferable to the originals. But the symbolic charge in apparently everyday scenes is such that one ends up feeling that one has been witnessing surrealism rather than superrealism. With the latest painting in the show, *Boat and Bath* (a vast girl looming in the foreground, a small boat balanced on the painted ocean beyond), this is more than ever so: a certain rubbery quality in Colville's depiction of the human form has seldom been so aptly deployed. We await with bated breath what he will do next.

John Russell Taylor

Television

Static reminiscence

According to Admiral Sir Henry Leach in Granada's new series on "the demise of the largest Empire the world has ever known", the Falklands expedition "put the B right back into Britain". The Beginning of the End (Channel 4), it had fallen out in 1941 when the Japanese sank his father's battleship and went on to the capture of Singapore. Churchill saw our surrender there as the greatest disaster in the Empire's history.

In the 40 years between Singapore and the Falklands, 49 British territories became independent. Brian Lapping, the series producer, realized that many of the men who witnessed the dismemberment were alive and well and living in places like Aldeburgh. Hence *End of Empire*, which will devote each of its 14 programmes to how the sun and the Union Jack lowered on a different land.

Last night concentrated on the Royal Navy - the cement of Empire - and Singapore, its Far Eastern base, whose residents believed they were "the luckiest people in the world". Sadly for them, Britain's debt after the First World War resulted in naval cutbacks and an element of bluff. Chamberlain shook his piece of paper, signed by Hitler, like a hanky waving farewell to

our dominions. Lord Home even recollected him phoning Australia to say he could no longer provide cover. But the attitude seemed not to try anything "idiotic". Anyway, they could not fly by night - something to do with their eyesight? Just in case they did, the Prince of Wales and Repulse were sent to Singapore.

The programme's highlight was an interview with a Japanese pilot - longer-haired and more open-necked than his British counterparts - who remembered bombing Singapore and the Prince of Wales. A Royal Navy survivor recalled the battleship gradually caving in. "It was as if one was in a cinema. I was looking at something as it wasn't there."

This was slightly the sinking feeling one had about the whole programme. Endless General Sir Somebody-or-Others came on to give their static reminiscences and the overall suspicion that whatever happened out East the sun was never going to set in Aldeburgh. It came as a relief to hear why a former President of Singapore welcomed us back after the war: "Japanese cigarettes were pretty horrible."

Nicholas Shakespeare

Concerts

Vast perception

LSO/Abbado
Festival Hall

"The composer is not being understood, nor does anyone wish to understand him. The assumption that Mahler is writing parodies and is poking fun in his symphonies seems to me to be completely ridiculous. He stands... as a serious, deeply introspective composer whom I regard with veneration."

Thus Webern, not quite twenty, reacting to the whimsy of Mahler's Fourth Symphony following its premiere in November 1901. Webern still found aspects of Mahler's style mannered and eccentric, but the remarkably mature way in which he assimilated its essence without merely copying its effects can be heard with blinding clarity in the Op 6 pieces he finished in 1909.

Claudio Abbado prefers the original version of the pieces to the 1928 revision and, especially in the context of the current LSO festival, the choice

was right: Webern's extraordinary funeral march condenses a whole world-vision of Mahler's into a tiny (but infinitely vast) space. By contrast Bruno Maderna's free-form Obco Concerto No 3 dissipates its influences into pretty noises (though these were projected with skill and commitment by Maurice Bourgue).

We can now hear the mannerism (and Webern was surely precisely right to use that word) of Mahler 4 as sinister and even threatening. Abbado, however, seemed to want to project a cool rather relaxed score, in which all the heavy marked *portamenti* had been cleaned up and passion rarely obtruded. That had the virtue of making Ann Murray's lovely singing of the finale a natural conclusion - but that is surely not quite how it should sound.

There was some good playing from the LSO, but it did not extend to the E flat clarinet in the Webern or the third flute in the Mahler.

Nicholas Kenyon

Perlman/Canino
Festival Hall

Israhak Perlman's recitals tend to resemble parties that begin a little formally but end in a riot of bonhomie. In this instance the dot consisted of a packed audience's response to Perlman's sequence of ever more astonishing Kreisler and Sarasate lollipops, culminating in the latter's Fantasy for violin and piano on *Carmen*. This extraordinary piece drags Bizet's ditties through a series of dazzling virtuosic hoops. It almost goes without saying that Perlman delivered even the most stratospheric embellishment with scarcely a flaw.

One wonders whether memory of these fireworks will linger in listeners' minds longer than the amply nuanced yet admirably restrained performance of Beethoven's G major Violin and Piano Sonata, Op 96, which preceded it. Here one could admire less breathlessly Perlman's tuning and tone - an unmatchable alliance of sweetness and strength - and his

superb bow control, which opens up so many new possibilities for articulation. When he approaches an extended passage on a single string, particularly the G (as in this sonata's lyrical Adagio), he seems to lean contentedly but against his chair, hold his fiddle high, and propel the music on a seamless flow of rich timbre and perfectly weighted *portamenti*.

All this sophistication seemed misplaced when applied to the opening work: an E major sonata once attributed to Pergolesi but actually penned by one Domenico Gallo. A creamy legato is surely inappropriate for these lightweight baroque phrases, and it was sometimes difficult to tell where vibrato ended and trill began.

The sonata, however, was included because of its thematic links with Stravinsky's *Suite Italienne*, and Perlman immediately made amends with a thoroughly idiomatic and rhythmically alert account of this *Puccinella* spin-off. His spitting spicato in the Tarantella was a masterpiece in itself, as was Bruno Canino's ever-responsive accompaniment.

No accompaniment needed for Bach's Partita No 3, of course: just a fine demonstration by Perlman of how to tuck those double-stoppings in without breaking, or braking, the melodic line. That, I think, signalled the start of the riot.

Richard Morrison

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Opera
Hippolyte et Aricie
Opéra-Comique, Paris

Rameau is the last great composer of opera waiting to be brought satisfactorily to the modern stage. Pier Luigi Pizzi's style of grandeur in the setting and decadent self-regard in the characters - so excellent in Handel - apparently worked when his production of *Hippolyte et Aricie* was presented at Aix in 1983 with Jesse Norman in the central role of Phaedra, but the transfer to Paris has not been happy.

This ought to have been a more stimulating occasion. John Eliot Gardiner had been replaced as conductor by William Christie, whose sympathy with Louis XIV and Louis XV music is unvalued. He is, moreover, directing his own ensemble of period-instrument specialists, including a quartet of deliciously woody flutes and another foursome of bassoons having something of the glamour of saxophones. The score sounded airy, colourful and wildly exotic in its percussive dances.

The dances looked exotic too, with choreography by Francois Raffinot that wittily bestraddled the centuries. Some very formal baroque steps might end in a decidedly twentieth-century pose, or else a bit of modern movement might usher in something out of an eighteenth-century dance treatise. It was all most effective.

Unfortunately, no such hybrid style had been found for the singers. Anne Howells, who had taken over the role of Phaedra, played her with intense emotional force, though too often this was expressed in single-note crescendos in the manner of Dame Janet Baker. As the dancing kept reminding one, the very thing to be avoided here is this kind of nineteenth-century sentiment.

Ludwig Baumann, as Theseus, was like Miss Howells playing it too much for real: Veronique Dietschy came nearer the mark, though in an easier part, with her toy nightingale performance as Diana, wheeled about on a silver and gold hind. Ian Honeyman and Danielle Borst were the lovers at the supposed centre of the supposed action.

Quite how Rameau is to be rescued I am not sure; perhaps through extreme simplicity. There is, after all, an essential naivety in the music. Mr Pizzi's treatment sets the stage for Handelian virtuosos, whereas Rameau's soloists almost never have anything very showy. There ought to be a way of making one not regret that, not feel after a prologue and five acts that one never wants to hear one of his appoggiaturas again. Who will show us that Rameau matters?

Paul Griffiths

The Weavers
Royal Lyceum,
Edinburgh

Despite its immense historic significance for European drama, this is only the second British production of Gerhart Hauptmann's *The Weavers* - and it is easy to see why. Productions of epoch-making works, once the epoch has developed, are hard put to make the impact of the original or to avoid over-stressing seeds of incipient developments. The very aspects of *The Weavers* which made it a milestone in 1892 now present pitfalls which Ian Woodbridge's production, though brave, has not overcome.

Based on fact, the play lays bare the appalling poverty and oppression that brought Silesian weavers to understandable but ineffectual revolt in 1844. The weavers' conditions having improved little by the 1890s, the Prussian authorities understood a more immediate and general social criticism and banned the play. Now seen as a landmark for both social drama and German and European naturalism, it moves on from then with its unequivocal portrayal of working-class poverty and use of strong dialect, while its corporate protagonist and lack of plot make it a forerunner of epic theatre.

Colin MacNeil's set presents a marvellous visual metaphor of all that the play now represents: a towering, three-tiered construction, fusing stylization, naturalist interior and social comment. Each layer housing a different class, it captures the drama's social scale, but does restrict movement, so adding to the production's static quality.

This is a risk of one of the play's innovations; not moved by plot, it relies on accumulation of description rather than action for effect. With the broadening context of each act, the impression of the weavers' plight is intensified, showing why their revolution is both inevitable and futile, so provoking deeper social analysis. Much of the play's momentum and message depend then on its emotional intensity, its ability to move spectators through the weight and detail of the weavers' suffering. Now, decades of parody later, weight and detail, however factual, can appear sentimental - a problem not overcome but made worse in this production, so weakening the play's backbone. Dialect also presents problems, though Frank Marcus's translation into straight English is certainly a feat, it loses the essential sense of community.

Perhaps partly to overcome sentimentality and return a

Theatre

Original impact too elusive

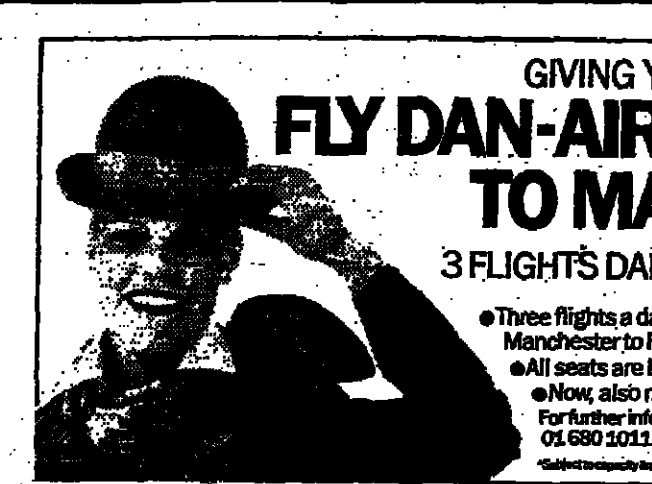


The marvellous visual metaphor of Colin MacNeil's three-tiered set

sense of immediacy to the play. Woodbridge emphasizes its crescendo of revolutionary fervour, looking into it for energy and action, conveying the size of its concern with bold, striking images. But this only works to a point. This is a social drama, but it is not didactic: its development and message, though logical, work on an

emotional level rather than a rational, programmatic one. Being unable to convey effectively the weavers' condition, the production begins to look like unsubtle, incohesive agit-prop: an unhappy marriage between strident overstatement and sentimentality.

Sarah Hemmings



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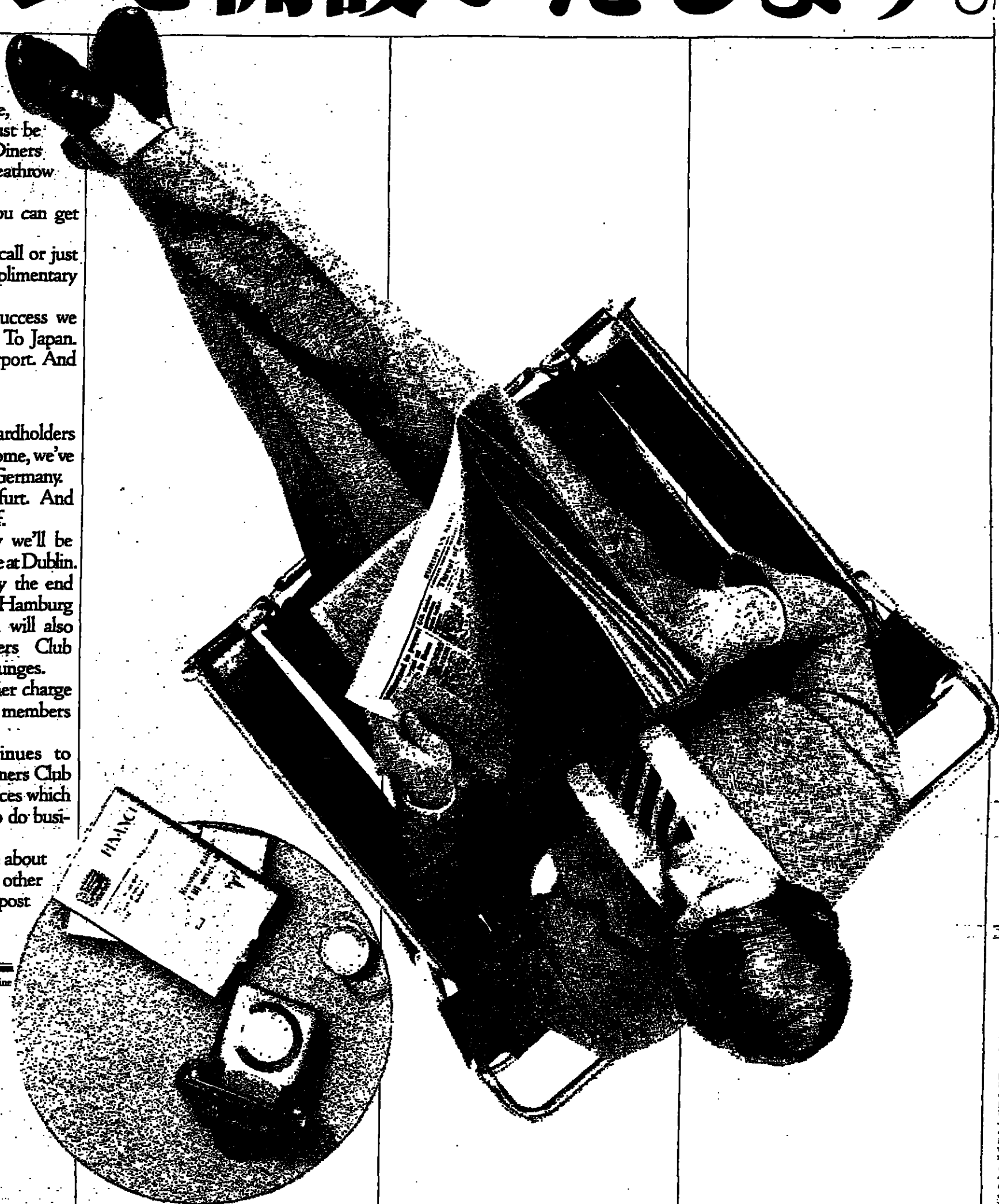
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The second of Geraldine Norman's series on the taxing problems which threaten our historic houses

Keeping it in the family



Not all the country's stately homes are at peril from the taxman. Burghley and Chatsworth, two of the nation's greatest houses, have been preserved intact by judicious planning, and remain family homes

The Marquess of Exeter, 73, is the leader of a Christian movement called the Emissaries of the Divine Light. He lives on a 12,000-acre ranch in Canada, which he inherited in 1956 and turned into a base for his large community of followers. His son, Lord Burghley, now manages the ranch and lives there with his family who also belong to the movement.

Meanwhile in Lincolnshire the Marquess's niece, Lady Victoria Leatham, has been appointed by the family trustees to live at Burghley House and run it for the next 15 years.

Burghley was built by William Cecil, first Baron Burghley and close adviser of Queen Elizabeth I, with turrets, courtyards and column chimneys. The interior, however, owes its main glories to the fifth Earl of Exeter who, in 1680, began to transform the state and private rooms into the fashionable Baroque style. The Neapolitan painter, Antonio Verrio, spent seven years there painting the ceilings, between his commissions at Windsor Castle and Hampton Court. The superb collection of paintings was mostly accumulated by the fifth and ninth Earls during the 18th century.

Burghley serves as an example of how the great families set about saving their stately homes and what sacrifices are required of them. The sixth Marquess of Exeter, Lady Victoria's father, inherited the house in 1956. A famous athlete, he won an Olympic Gold Medal in 1928 and a silver in 1932. In later years he became a Master of Foxhounds and was a director of several companies. By the time he took over Burghley, he had four daughters from two marriages and it seemed unlikely that he would have a male heir. He began to look for a means of protecting Burghley's future.

For the first half of this century the most popular way of protecting a house and its contents was to turn them over to a discretionary trust, which would not be liable for death duties. By the time the Marquess had achieved this, new legislation was busily eroding its advantages. The introduction of capital transfer tax in 1975 finally killed it off, making transfers into and out of trust both dutiable. He therefore changed his strategy and set up a charitable trust.

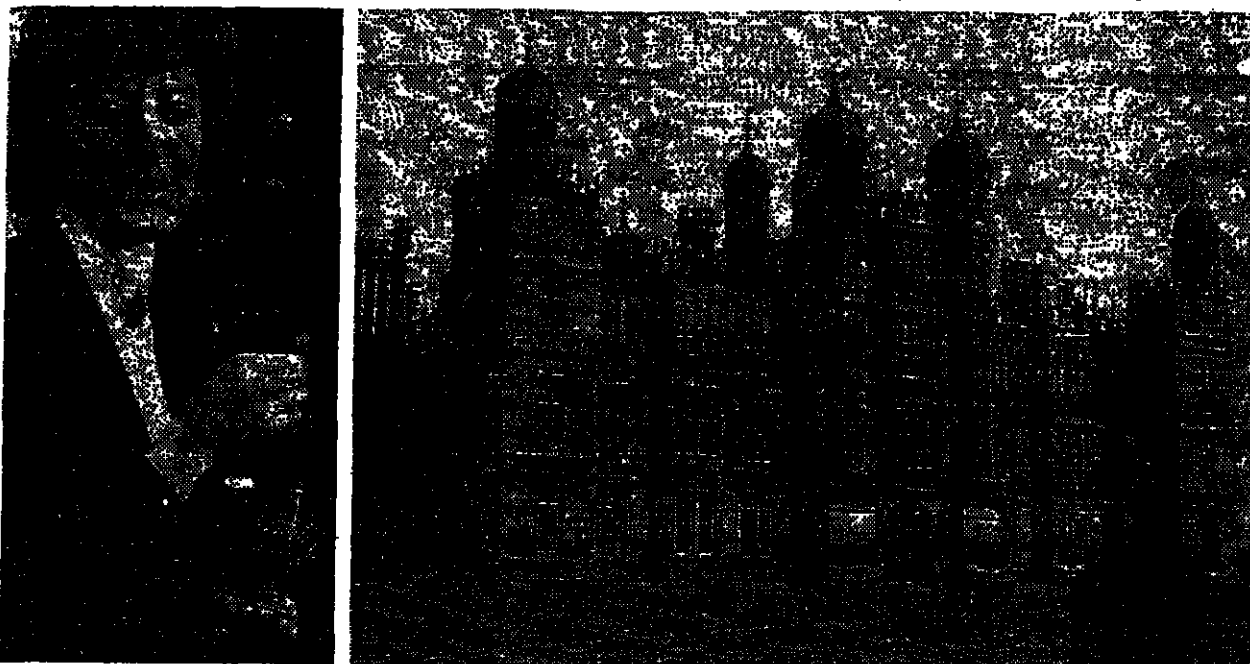
In the course of his lifetime and by bequest at his death in 1981, he passed the house, the contents of the state apartments and income-generating land to a trust.

In his will he expressed the wish that a member of the family would always live at Burghley. "No one will ever again be able to own the contents", comments Lady Victoria, "but it means that we can keep the whole collection together. We'd like tax exemption on the whole contents of the house but until we've found everything we can't hope for a decision on that."

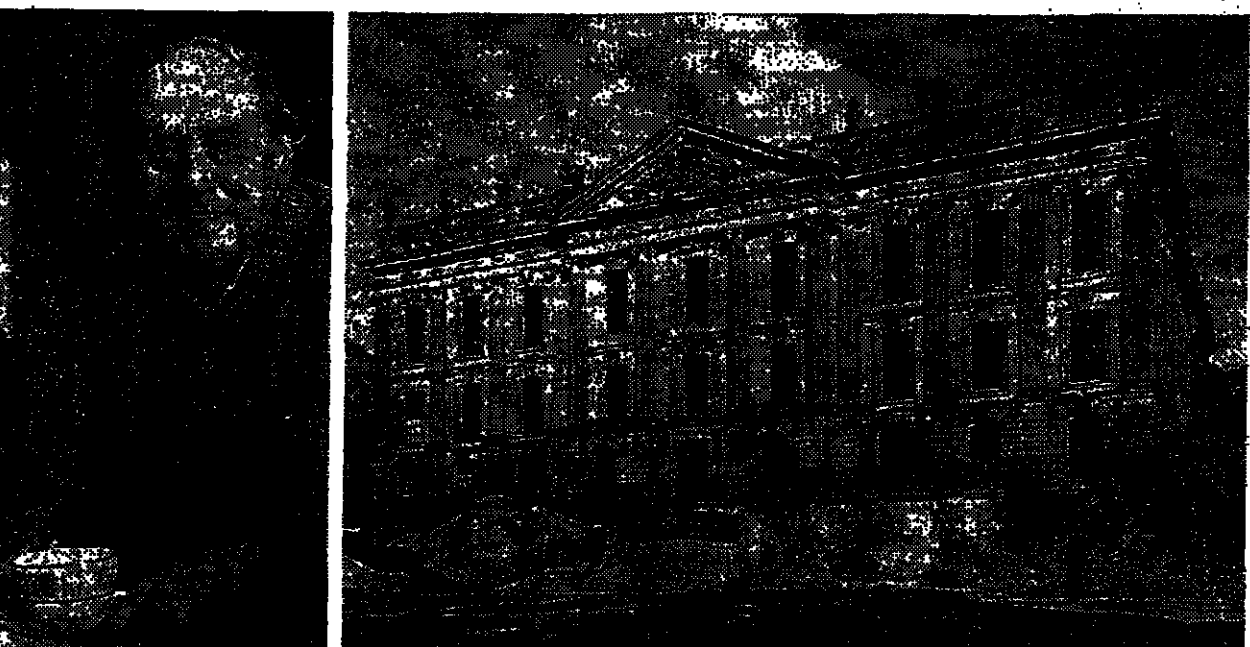
Lady Victoria is the youngest of the late Marquess's daughters but the obvious choice for the role of curator at Burghley. She had lived there until her marriage to merchant banker Simon Leatham in 1967 and at the time of her father's death was living only 20 miles away and running Sotheby's office in Cambridge. She thus combined experience of the estate with a knowledge of art - which is now standing her in good stead.

Connoisseurship has changed significantly since her grandfather died in 1956 and finding everything listed on the 1956 inventory to be revalued for tax is a difficult task. "It took seven years to sort out my grandfather's estate", she says, "and it looks as if it will be the same again." But there have been extraordinary compensations.

Some of the Chinese vases of 1956 turned out to be Japanese. Tracing them back through the family inventories she discovered that they had been in the family since 1688 when the fifth Earl was refurbishing the house. A search was initiated and they were found all over the house, in housemaids' cupboards, bedrooms, store-



Position of trust: Lady Victoria Leatham has been appointed curator of Burghley House by the family trustees



Paying the rent: The Duke of Devonshire and Chatsworth House which is administered by a charitable trust

rooms... anywhere. An immensely rare porcelain figure of two wrestling boys had been used as a door stop.

In addition to the standard guided tours of the house, Lady Victoria has initiated study days and organized special exhibitions of little known parts of the collection - such as the Japanese porcelain. By the end of her 15 years in the house, she hopes that everything will be inventoried and mended.

Meanwhile the house is kept alive, unlike the "museum" houses run by the National Trust. The family apartments are on the ground floor with the state apartments above them. "We live in as many rooms as possible", she says, "I think it is very important to have children and dogs running through them, though sometimes if I put my handbag down it takes four hours to find."

But she has no regrets at the thought of moving when the time comes. "People should not grow old in a stately home", she says. "It shrinks with them."

I watched my parents grow old, so I know."

The family hopes that one day the title and the house will come together again. The present Marquess and his son have built their lives in Canada but the Marquess's 14-year-old grandson is coming over to spend the summer holidays with Lady Victoria this year. Maybe he will like it. In any event, the trustees of the Burghley Preservation Trust will see that a suitable, and closely related, resident will be found for the house when Lady Victoria leaves.

The charitable trust as a route for preserving a great house and its contents has also been adopted by the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth. He has good reason to appreciate the importance of forward planning to soften the impact of death duties.

His father the tenth Duke, foreseeing tax problems at his death decided in 1946 to turn over the bulk of his property, estates, houses and art

collections to a trust, the Chatsworth Settlement Trust. At that time the law stipulated that as long as he survived for three years the property of the trust would not be subject to death duties. Before the three years ran out, the law was changed to extend this period to five years. The tenth Duke died, at the age of only 50, five months before the end of the five-year quarantine period.

Much of the resulting tax bill was paid in kind, rather than cash. The state received Hardwick, the noble house built by Bess of Hardwick in the late 16th century, with all its "appropriate" furnishings and works of art dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; Claude Lorrain's *Liber Veritatis*, the 200 or so drawings made by the artist of his own paintings as a personal record of their existence, which had been acquired by the second Duke in the 1720s; a sketch book kept by Van Dyck during his travels in Italy; a large bronze head of Apollo dating from the fifth century BC; the Benedictional of St. Aethelwold, the famous tenth century manuscript written for the Saint Bishop of Winchester; 90 printed books and bindings; the Donne Triptych by Memling; a *Philosopher* by Rembrandt; Holbein cartoons of Henry VII and VIII and a *Holy Family* by Rubens.

The loss to the nation of the Chatsworth drawings sold at Christie's last summer - 72 of them made £21 million - pales into insignificance beside the gains of this list. In order to establish a suitable endowment for his new charitable trust, the present Duke has also sold a Poussin painting to the Getty Museum in Malibu for £1.6 million and a group of books from the library for £220,000.

The Chatsworth charitable trust now owns the house, garden and park. The important contents, those works of art on view to the public, have been leased to it for 99 years, leaving future generations some leeway to rearrange their affairs, while the family's own living quarters are rented to them by the trust.

The Duke describes it as "a sort of personal national trust, administered by people known to me and my family". The trustees are called directors and include the Duchess and his son, Lord Harrington. "It's most important to keep on good terms with one's trustees", he laughs. Preserving Chatsworth still poses problems. "There are always problems", he says. "But one is very lucky to be faced with such problems - there are certainly problems but no complaints."

It was a close encounter between the futuristic world of Western high technology and the cautious, blinkered, rather Victorian world of the Soviet bureaucracy. On the one hand, the whizz-kid prophets of the computer age.

The encounter took place at a branch of the Moscow Institute for Professional and Technical Education, a ramshackle building up a dirt road just off Leningrad Prospekt, where a British computer consortium, the Spectrum Group plc, was putting a range of electronic marvels through their paces.

The Politburo has decided to make the technological leap into the twenty-first century and the Spectrum demonstration - was one of the results. Above the rows of gleaming keyboards, visual display units, video screens and software samplers, a portrait of Lenin still hung above the lecture platform. The education of modern youth must consist of education in Communist morality, it said, somewhat incongruously. Next to it was a quote from Chernenko which the authorities had not had time to replace with one from Gorbachev: "There is no higher task than the instillation in young people of - Marxist-Leninist ideology."

The decision to enter the computer age by buying it in from the West was made under Chernenko and was linked to his school reform. But the campaign has gained fresh impetus with the arrival in the Kremlin of 54-year-old Mikhail Gorbachev, whose main priority is economic modernization and reform and who is moving fast to place like-minded young technocrats in positions of power right across the Soviet Union. The head of the Academy of Sciences, Dr Anatoly Alexandrov, has compared today's computer training programme - with the fight against illiteracy after the 1917 revolution.

The computerization programme really got off the ground in January this year when Gorbachev was already beginning to take control as Chernenko declined. A Politburo decree laid down a long-term policy of technological innovation to the year 2000 with the emphasis on computers. This was followed up in *Pravda* which reported that the Politburo was determined to introduce computers into every one of Russia's 64,000 secondary schools in a phased programme, beginning in September, to ensure "computer literacy" among staff and pupils alike.

and are controlled at all times by politically-reliable teachers and officials unlikely to use the computers for unapproved purposes.

Soviet officials were taken aback when Western salesmen at the recent seminar used a portrait of Lenin to demonstrate the tricks of an HRX (High Resolution Graphics) computer which digitizes video signals. Seeing the revered founder of the Soviet state reduced to a postage stamp, turned upside down and surrounded by pictures of Marilyn Monroe is not quite what the Kremlin has in mind.

Like other British bidders in the Soviet market, such as Acorn and Sinclair, the Spectrum group offers a classroom system which meets Soviet anxieties.

It is called the Network, in which a master computer on the teacher's desk monitors individual work. Like Sinclair's Spectrum series the Spectrum Consortium's Metachip 512 can accommodate up to 250 computers per classroom, a detail which fascinated Soviet ministers at the demonstration.

computers which have flooded the Western markets are completely unknown in Soviet electronics shops. One of the drawbacks of the Kremlin campaign is that there is no back-up at home, no family use of computers and, so far, no application of computer technology in society at large.

The Soviet manufacturing and retail system is so cumbersome and backward that Western experts find the idea of computers being used, say, for stocktaking unrealistic - unless Mr Gorbachev is able to combine computerization with a radical overhaul and reform of the economy, despite objections from hardline Stalinists of the old school.

Like other aspects of the information technology revolution, computers present the Kremlin with a threat to its jealously-guarded monopoly of information, which is an instrument of social and political control. Like video, computers are only acceptable in Russia - as far as the Communist Party is concerned - if they can be kept firmly under lock and key.

Red tape ties up the future

Richard Owen in Moscow reports how Russia's attempt to enter the computer age is meeting the bureaucracy barrier



All three British companies (ICL are also reportedly bidding) have so far done "good" business in the tune of £20,000, and when they showed off their products at a Moscow exhibition in January the Russians bought up every piece of equipment on their stands.

Apart from the tricky question of information and political control, the sheer mechanics of equipping a multitude of schools, offices and factories across Russia are formidable. Given that the Soviet Union has only a rudimentary home-grown computer industry, British and other Western companies have to overcome restrictions on technology transfer imposed by Cocom, the Paris-based body which limits certain sales to the Eastern bloc on security grounds.

There are in any case doubts in the Kremlin over whether Russia's entry ticket to the computer age should be a wholesale commitment to Western imports. For one thing, hard currency is scarce. "What if we sign a contract and the Western firm disappears?" said the director of one computer training centre I visited recently in Moscow. "The computer market is highly volatile." Russians are knowledgeable in the ways of capitalism.

Even officials admit that the only Soviet computer is a failure?

"Then there is the problem of supply at long distance, maintenance, downtime and changes in software", the director added. "Finally, experience has shown us it is unwise to depend on the West when it may impose embargoes or trade sanctions on us for political reasons at any moment."

The obvious answer, and perhaps the one the Kremlin will adopt in the end, is for Russia to develop its own computer industry, perhaps in combination with Western imports. But the only Soviet micro computer so far is the Agat, a copy of the Apple Two, which even officials at the Academy of Sciences admit is a failure. They say the Agat is regarded as an experimental model from which future Soviet computers will develop but the record is not encouraging and it seems doubtful whether the slow-moving bureaucratic world of Soviet science and industry can keep pace with the lightning fast advances of the computer world.

It seems likely, judging by Soviet reactions to Western exhibitions and sales pitches so far, that the Russians will move cautiously, picking and choosing the systems which suit them. At the training centre I visited not far from the Academy of Sciences, pupils drawn from nearby schools sit at computer terminals linked to a heavy main-frame Soviet computer, learning "fortran", the computer language, in English. But there were only twenty pupils at a time, and the system was already out of date.

The director, a sheaf of Western computer magazines under his arm, had a radio shack computer with a JVC screen in his office but it was, he explained, a rarity and not for general use. With his Western-style computer jargon and his enthusiasm for new technology, the training centre director typified the kind of new generation technocrat Mr Gorbachev sees as Russia's hope. Whether the new technocrats can blow the dust off Russia's antiquated technology without also opening up the restrictive and authoritarian Communist system is another matter.

Computer Horizons, pages 24-29

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ACROSS
1 Whittener (6)
2 Chicken (4)
3 Before (5)
4 Spiral (7)
5 Family (8)
6 Fine for (4)
7 Not expected (13)
8 Holm oak (4)
9 Roman (4,4)
10 Not sleep (7)
11 Yellowish weed (5)
12 Cry (4)
13 Serene (6)

DOWN
1 Romance language (5)
2 Piercing tool (3)
3 Sex psychology writer (8,5)
4 Annoy (4)
5 Nationalist (7)
6 Purchasing in quantity (4,6)
7 Coveted things (10)
8 Destiny (4)
9 Small mark (4)
10 Synthetic textile (7)
11 "Long live" (5)
12 Dancing shoe (4)
13 Boy (3)

SOLUTION TO No 619
ACROSS: 1 Wafts 4 Politic 5 Mayor 9 Amharic 10 Arpeggio 11 Wild 13 Hagiography 17 Veal 18 Last Post 21 Comfort 22 Chimp 23 Tear gas 24 Limer
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Holding back the tide - how to halt the export of art and antiques



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FASHION

Body-sculpting swimwear is making waves on the beach this summer. Flashy one-piece suits are cut-away for maximum exposure. Sparkling sequinned costumes are creating a splash by the pool. Take the plunge. High shine, sharp lines and protective filters will put you in the swim. Your preparations start here.

Swimwear designers have found a new angle on the body. Costumes with connecting panels and dramatic zig-zagging lines dissect the body, crossing the bikini with the one-piece in sharp new style.

Forget all-over tanning. Prepare to be brown in squares and circles, geometrically patterned on the body. American body-wear designer Liza Bruce has the bright idea of the season - pieces of Lycra in layers with portholes revealing glimpses of golden skin or the contrast colour of the swimsuit underneath. Up to three parts fit together to form a second skin.

There's a strong return to glamour following last year's Olympic fever. Fun, 1950s-style costumes take inspiration from Marilyn Monroe and Betty Grable, and come with underwiring, padded bra-cups and boned V-fronts to boost the currently fashionable voluptuous body-beautiful.

Glamorous "evening" swimsuits that will never take a soaking glitter with diamanté and sequins, sometimes set on lace. Ruched, draped and gathered fabrics caress the feminine torso. Swimsuits rising as high as the waist on the legs, armholes diving as low as they can go, and scoop fronts plunging to new depths are straight out of Miss World. Harrods have an exclusive white one-piece with diamanté brooch at £125, by Gottex.

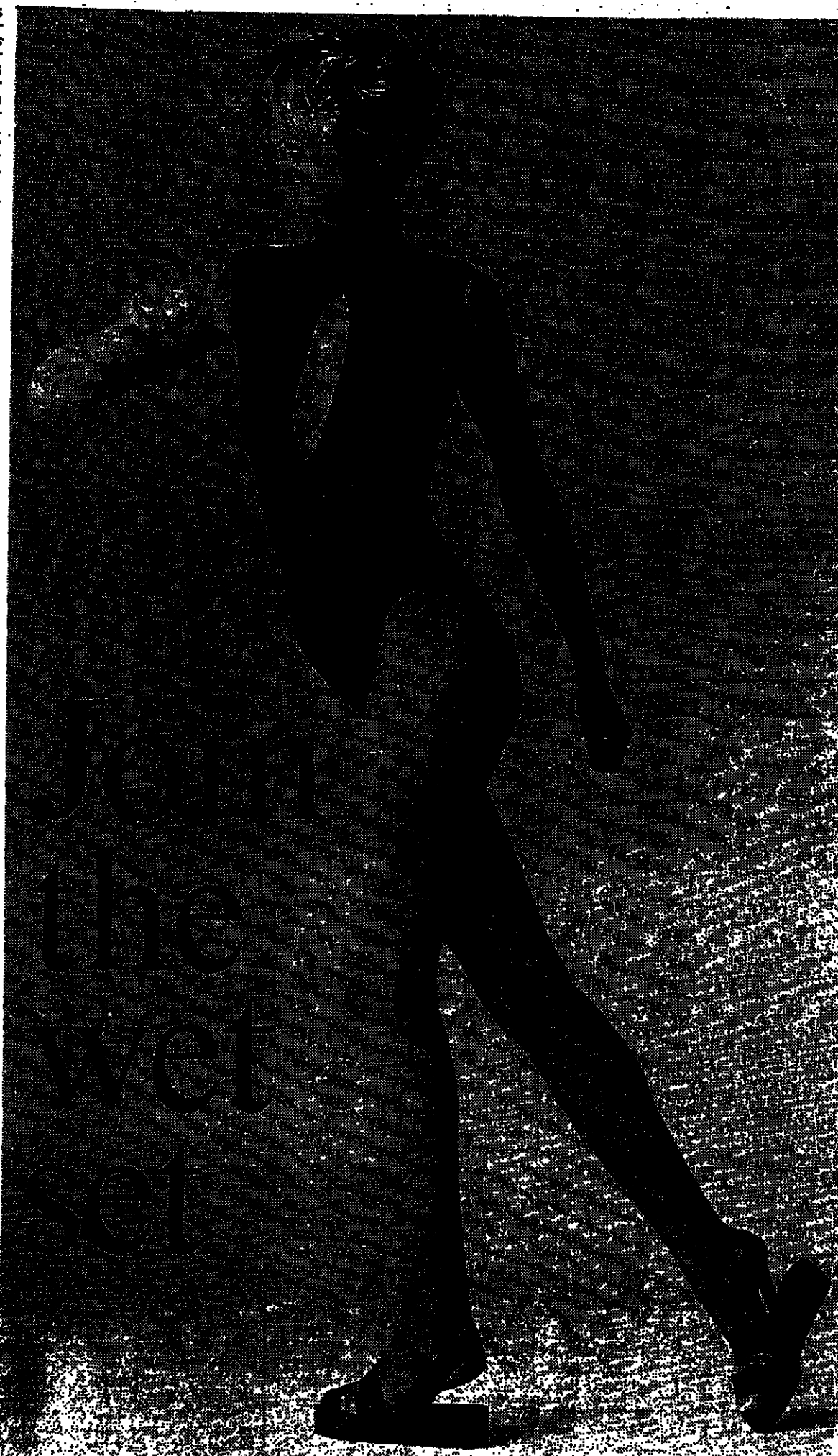
Fenwick of Bond Street have a well-stocked swimwear department. Pretty, striped costumes are laced like a corset on the bodice and have ballerina tutu-frills dancing along bikini tops and skirting the hip line. For bathing bibles who prefer the simple life, there are strapless "handcuffs" and leiard-shaped swimsuits.

If you really do prefer a bikini, choose a bottom half cut like Calvin Klein's mannish underwear with a twist in the hip band and the bandeau top cut with a gathered panel and perhaps an optional halter neck-tie.

Lycra leads the way in swimwear, chosen for its high shine, glossy image and contouring properties. It takes the strong colour dyes well - fresh, zingy citrus shades like lime, lemon and tangerine that glow under a tropical sun. Where cotton is used it is often mixed with ribbing, sharpened up with a rubber belt or textured with elasticated ruching or a pique surface.

Sports and stripes are still hot favourites, but plain colours, especially black and white, or abstract scribble patterns look sharp and new. Covering-up means a fluffy towelling robe in a bright poster colour like deep blue, red or yellow or sporty towelling separates such as shorts, capri pants and cropped tops.

Baring your body to the sun means getting skin in shape and planning your tan in advance. A healthy sheen rather than a deep, dark tan is fashionable now. Treat skin to a refreshing spring-cleaning programme with exfoliating creams, the



new skin conditioners. They contain particles to buff up the skin's surface and slough off dead cells. Two new exfoliating creams for the face by Helena Rubinstein have built-in moisturisers: the cream is for dry or sensitive skin (£7.95) and the tougher grains work hard to improve skin texture (£6.95). Yves Rocher's Body Exfoliating Cream has plant based particles (£3.95).

For deep-down toning, massage mitts and body brushes stimulate circulation, polishing skin to help it stay supple and soft. The new Boots Bodycare collection available from larger branches includes a friction towel, massage glove and brush (from £2.25). The Toning Emulsion with Aloe and Equisetum (£3.50) by Yves Rocher is designed to firm skin paying particular attention to the inside of the arms and legs.

You can speed up tanning time with pre-sun products that encourage the melanin to come more rapidly to the skin surface when exposed to the sun. Pre-Sun Milk by Lancôme should be applied every day for at least a week prior to sunning.

Christine Paine
Suzy Menkes is on holiday



Main picture: Black cotton/Lycra swimsuit with cutaway back £19.99, assorted colours, by Fitness Centre Clothing from Way In at Harrods; Hobbs, South Molton Street W1 and branches. Sunglasses £7.95 by Peepers from Top Shop; Chelsea Girl. Elastic strap sandals £19 by XX from a selection at Fenwick of Bond Street W1.

Top left: Royal blue Lycra costume with black coin spots £10.99, also carise pink, from selected Marks & Spencer stores. Metallic earrings from XYZ, 74 Heath Street, Hampstead.

Top right: Black velvet cutaway swimsuit £53.50 by Charles Jourdan, 37-43 Brompton Road SW3. Perspex earrings £14.95, XYZ, Hampstead.

Above left: Black/white elasticated Lycra two-piece £65 by Liza Bruce, from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge SW1; Regine, New Bond Street W1; Lillywhites, Hapam, Brighton; Hobby, Cardiff; Joan Potting, Birmingham. Sunglasses £17.99 by Primetta from Liberty W1.

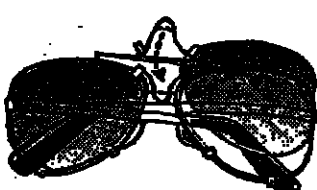
Above right: Aquamarine waves and sequins on a boned swimsuit £68, without sequins £58, by Gottex from Harrods; Selfridges; Sweet Dreams, Guildford; Crofts, Harrogate; Katharine Henderson, Glasgow.

Make-up by Bonnie using Miners' Water Babies Collection. Hair by Rene Gelston for Schumi. Photographs by VICTOR YUAN

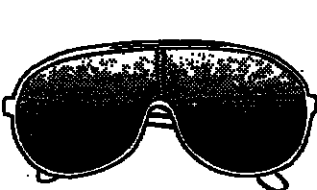
Darkening our brightness



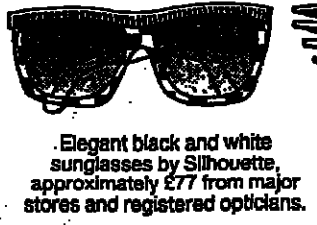
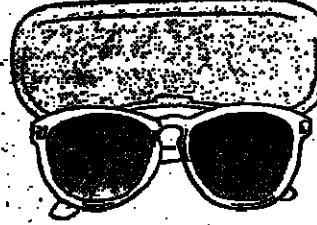
Mirrored visor on zig-zag arms. £24.95 from For Eyes, 21 James Street, WC2; Harrow, Hertford and Branches.



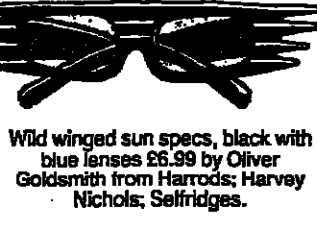
Flipper Shades have interchangeable frames from £11.99 and lenses £4.99 in 72 colour combinations, from Harrods; John Lewis, Oxford Street W1.



Sporty aviator shades with white frames £9.95 from the Continentals Collection by Foster Grant at major Boots, selected chemists and department stores.



Elegant black and white sunglasses by Silhouette, approximately £77 from major stores and registered opticians.



Wild winged sun specs, black with blue lenses £6.99 by Oliver Goldsmith from Harrods; Harvey Nichols; Selfridges.

Sunny yellow frames in a matching perspex case £9.99 by Bolk, also magenta, green and clear, from Harrods; Selfridges; Gee 2 Shops.

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FASHFLASH

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Spring hair... the news is grow out layers and go for length. Take a shine to glossy new cuts - sharp styles have a certain geometry and short fringes in Sixties mood have the Eighties emphasis on conditioning for body and healthy good looks. New products contain

vitamins and proteins. The accent is on fast, no-fuss hair care - single application shampoo, conditioners you don't need to rinse out, quick colour change mousses.

Petite style... find clothes designed specifically for women who are 5ft 2in or under at a pretty new shop in Covent Garden. British made in sizes 6 to 14, co-ordinated separates and knits from Little Women, 4 Langley Court, London WC2.

Limited editions... at Tan Guidicelli's London shop. Hand-made romantic summer dresses in embroidered chiffon and glamorous evening entrance-makers - couture clothes for every age range. Prices from about £800 at 12 Beauchamp Place SW3.

Photography in action - at The Photographers Gallery, 5 Great Newport Street, London WC2 until May 11. Fashion photographer Iain McKell has taken his studio to the gallery to shoot "live" during the exhibition of his sharp work. Lots of strong dramatic portraits.

Also showing from April 19 for a month, The Face magazine stages a retrospective. The British bible of style provides an important insight into why image is all for today's youth culture. The gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday.

Bespoke history - an exhibition that celebrates the skills of Savile Row opens on Thursday afternoon. "Two centuries of British Tailoring" at Wells of Mayfair, 47 Maddox Street, London W1, includes examples of period garments, fabrics and the chance to see a craftsman cutter at work.

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Illustrations by MICHAEL DAVIDSON

THE TIMES DIARY

No mass for Charles

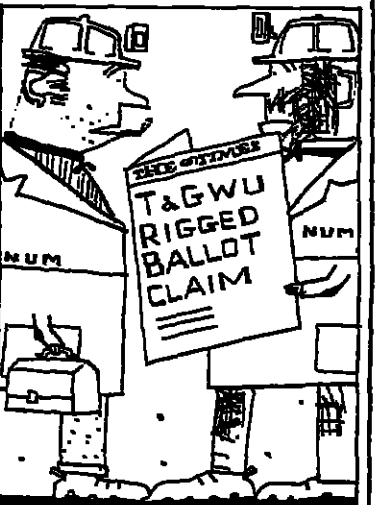
A request by Prince Charles to attend a mass in the Vatican this month has been refused after a top-level decision, taken in the past 24 hours, involving Buckingham Palace, church leaders and the diplomatic corps. Besides the fear of protests from Protestant loyalists, I am told objections were raised at the weekend within the hierarchy of the Church of Scotland, although the Moderator, the Right Rev. John Paterson, is understood to have given the prince his personal blessing. I am told the agreement of the Archbishop of Canterbury was also given.

The mass, organized under strictest secrecy, was to have taken place in the Pope's private chapel on April 30. The prince, who was to be joined by the Princess of Wales, was then to breakfast with the Pope before the couple left for Sicily at 10.40 am. The mass was to be excluded from the official list of engagements - unlike the couple's private audience with the Pope the day before. The mass would have been the most significant gesture of rapprochement between the English monarchy and the Church of Rome since the reign of Henry VIII. On Sunday Buckingham Palace would not deny the mass was going to take place, but yesterday it issued a blanket denial, saying, "It is certainly not now going to take place. Not all ways were cleared."

Artless

The vice-chancellor of London University was waxing well over the top about the contributions of universities to society at a conference this weekend. Given unlimited finance, said Sir Randolph Quirk, we could let "a thousand flowers bloom... Who is to predict where another Eitlinger, another Gombrich, another Blunt, another Clark is to spring forth?" Another Blunt?

BARRY FANTONI



'At least they were lucky enough to have one'

Clip slip

Producers of Granada's 14-week series, *End of Empire*, which began on Channel 4 last night, spent yesterday in negotiation with representatives of the Indian High Commission. As a matter of courtesy Granada had shown the commission the episodes covering the withdrawal from India, which start next week. Far from showering the production team with compliments, the commission complained that a film clip of Muslim troops in fact clearly showed Sikh troops. And another thing, it did not much care for the depiction of Gandhi as a "Hindu chauvinist extremist". Come back, Richard Attenborough, all is forgiven.

Unhappy returns

Neil Kinnock, who called on Barclays yesterday to end its links with South Africa, should perhaps apply his energies to that great anti-apartheid machine, the GLC. The council admitted yesterday that it has £8.5 million invested in Barclays shares and loan stock. Indeed, it has had GLC investments in Barclays since 1965. The GLC reasons that it must get the best return for the ratepayer - "it could be that companies with South African connections are the best deals on the market". Other councils have no such qualms. Rochdale, for example, run by a Tory-Liberal-SDP coalition, in an anti-apartheid gesture last year switched its business from Barclays to NatWest, at the risk of a £50,000 loss to ratepayers over three years.

Retiring Labour MP Ernie Armstrong's favoured candidate duly won the nomination for his safe Durham seat at the weekend. From five candidates, his local party selected one Hilary Armstrong - his daughter.

Looking up

The IBA has finally conceded that the *Spectator* is not run from Conservative Central Office and is to allow it to advertise on television. Glowing with the belated recognition of its political independence, the young fogies have roped in "typical reader" Kingsley Amis to launch its first commercial on Channel 4 on April 15. Footing the £10,000 bill will be the cheapest we could get - will be the *Spectator*'s new owners, John Fairfax and Sons. The Australian newspaper group, Fairfax, certainly means business. Only weeks after the takeover, it has sacked seven *Spectator* directors, including Charles Moore, the editor. In turn, Moore has surprising news for his readers: he is giving up his political commentary soon. The IBA may well tremble at his replacement.

PHS

Recycling: a wasted chance

by Jonathan Porritt

The Government should be commended for nominating at last a minister to coordinate responsibility for recycling waste. The fact that the minister, David Trippier, is based at the Department of Trade and Industry rather than the Department of the Environment, that he has had to take on the job with no executive powers and no budget, and that he has been given no specific mandate to carry through the recommendations of the Commons Trade and Industry Committee's report, *The Wealth of Waste*, is to be deplored in equal measure.

Spokesmen for the Labour Party, David Clarke and Doug Hoyle, have already roundly condemned the whole exercise as "window-dressing".

Contrary to expectations, environmentalists would have relished the opportunity to give the Government unstinting praise for taking action on one of our longest-standing concerns. When *The Wealth of Waste* was published last December, it looked like an ideal pretext for improving this Government's otherwise dubious environmental credentials. As the report put it, "The benefits of recycling are obvious. Rarely do environmental and economic factors so unambiguously support the same goal." There is nothing soft or marginal, therefore, about backing the initiatives the report went on to recommend.

Yet on this occasion we see only another example of government by gesture. By placing the responsibility with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Govern-

ment has made it quite clear that the profitability and commercial viability of recycling schemes matter far more than their environmental desirability.

There is a long history of confusion between the two government departments involved. In his evidence to the Commons committee, David Trippier confidently affirmed that Trade and Industry was the "lead department". William Waldegrave, under-secretary in the Department of the Environment, felt otherwise. "There is no nominated lead department for recycling as such, but the Department of the Environment is the lead department for waste management generally."

Mr Waldegrave has now been squeezed out, although quite clearly his department is in by far the best position to set targets for local authorities and provide the necessary incentive to promote recycling schemes.

The facts speak for themselves. Only six per cent of Britain's total annual consumption of glass is derived from waste, 27 per cent of paper, 33 per cent of aluminium and 41 per cent of copper. The value of the lost materials is estimated at £750 million. A true commitment to recycling would therefore be highly desirable on the narrowest of commercial grounds, without considering the many environmental advantages.

And yet the economics of recycling are

not simple. Even though the UK imports more than 60 per cent of the paper products it uses, our wastepaper industry has not been able to establish itself, and has suffered badly from severely fluctuating market conditions. Many an environmentally conscious organization has had to pay the price for its principles by using recycled paper: the Commons committee itself was taken aback to discover that it would have cost twice as much to print its report on recycled paper.

Nor does the Government's attitude to the GLC (whose excellent record shows just how much can be done) and other metropolitan authorities fill one with confidence. The Commons committee recommended that capital grants should be made available to local authorities for specific approved recycling schemes, and that the UK Reclamation Council should be given substantial financial support. The narrow interpretation of the word "economic" that currently prevails in the Tory Party will bar the new minister from even contemplating such an interventionist role.

Try as we might, therefore, environmentalists have no option but to criticize this Government's failure to demonstrate its "green credentials". If it is to make a substantial and unequivocal commitment to recycling, then the growing number of concerned Conservatives must find ways of making that concern felt much more powerfully in the right places.

The author is director of *Friends of the Earth*.

Tim Congdon on the hidden weaknesses in the US economic boom

In its economic heyday the US was both the workshop and the laboratory of the world. In the late 1940s and early 1950s its output exceeded one third of the world total, more than that of all the European nations combined. Its lead was most pronounced in advanced, science-based products such as aerospace and pharmaceuticals.

The most obvious symptom of America's overwhelming economic strength was a large and persistent trade surplus. For many years, particularly at the frontiers of technology, it was the only supplier. Americans came to believe that the rest of the world relied on them far more than they relied on the rest of the world.

That assumption survives today, providing much of the explanation for the almost Roman attitude the Reagan administration adopts in its dealings with other countries. It also lies behind the Senate's aggressiveness in proposing trade sanctions against Japan. The risk that a trade war might do more damage to the US than to Japan is almost impossible for an American to contemplate.

But America's economic position is now far from overwhelming. Its output continues to be, by a wide margin, the largest of any single nation, but its share of the world total has declined to about 20 per cent. More disturbing and more significant is its vast trade deficit. Much comment has already been made on America's transformation from the largest creditor nation to net debtor. The balance-of-payments deficits of the last four years have been on such a scale that they have exceeded the cumulative surpluses of the previous 70 years.

Less comment has been directed to an equally important development: the marked change in the composition of exports and imports. Instead of reimporting renowned products incorporating the latest technology and design, the US today

And now, the high-tech deficit

is a net importer of high-technology goods.

Areness of this change is only beginning to affect America's self-image. Such has been the ballyhoo about Reaganomics and the nation's 6½ per cent growth rate in 1984 that most Americans, and indeed a probably even larger number of non-Americans, take it for granted that the US is the land of the biggest, newest and best. It will come as a shock when they realize that the newest and best often originate in other countries.

The facts have been compiled by Morgan Stanley in two recent research studies. The slide has occurred in the last three years. In early 1982 the US was showing an annual surplus on high-tech of about \$10 billion; in late 1984 this had become a deficit of over \$5 billion; the deficit in early 1985 will probably be even larger.

Of course, the worsening in high-tech trade has coincided with a more general deterioration in the US balance of payments, largely attributable to the strength of the dollar. If the dollar's overvaluation proves

temporary, it is not also likely that the high-tech deficit will disappear. There is not at least a possibility that America's apparent inability to compete in some of the new industries is an aberration rather than some more deep-seated malaise? These questions gain particular relevance from the undoubted tendency of American companies to maintain senior management and research facilities in the US while they transfer the manufacture of components to low-cost locations in the Far East, and to a lesser extent, in Europe. This tendency suggests that key personnel, with special knowledge and skills, remain in the US and that production will return there when the dollar exchange rate becomes more realistic.

There may be something in this argument, but much depends on how "temporary" the dollar's overvaluation turns out to be. Once money has been invested in new factories, it makes sense to use them fully and efficiently. They will not suddenly become idle after the dollar has dropped 30 per cent. Moreover, by making components

abroad, American multinationals inevitably transmit technological information. If a Taiwanese or Hong Kong factory is given a detailed design and production specifications for a microchip, its managers are bound to learn something about computer technology.

The US reaction to the emergence of the high-tech deficit is not at this stage easy to predict. Since the Reagan administration believes in the free market its logical response should be to do nothing particular. If the international marketplace has delivered its verdict against high-tech goods made in the US there is nothing that a Reaganite can say in good conscience except that the marketplace is right. The high-tech deficit should no more be a reason for changing policy than the enormous increase in the number of Americans coming to Europe for a holiday, spending dollars and adding to the payments imbalance.

The increasing extent to which American companies depend on foreign components and subsidiaries scattered over the globe suggests the folly of an isolationist, inward-looking answer to the high-tech deficit. Today it is a commonplace for an American multinational to employ an English salesman to market a product made in West Germany or France to customers in the Far East. Businessmen, unlike senators on Capitol Hill, can no longer afford to be fussy about national frontiers or vanities.

The American government may not like the idea that economically the rest of the world now depends on the US rather less than the US depends on the rest of the world. But it would be against America's own interests to pretend that a major shift in industrial and scientific power, of which the high-tech deficit is an illustration, has not taken place.

The author is economics partner of stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

	Exports	Imports	Balance
1982 1st half	29.5	19.3	+10.2
2nd	28.1	20.7	+7.4
1983 1st	29.5	23.5	+6.0
2nd	31.9	28.0	+3.9
1984 1st half	35.0	36.3	-1.3
3rd quarter	36.2	42.9	-6.7

All figures are seasonally adjusted, at annual rates.

Source: Morgan Stanley, from US Bureau of Economic Analysis data.

How iron is the Israeli fist?

Edward Mortimer talks to the man behind the desk of operations in Lebanon

Uri Lubrani does not like the term "iron fist" - because, he says, "basically I'm against iron fists on principle". Yet, as the Israeli government's co-ordinator of Lebanese affairs, he has to take responsibility for the tactics currently being used by Israel in southern Lebanon, to which the term "iron fist" has been applied by the international media.

He does not seem at all an iron-fisted sort of person: 58 years old, an ex-ambassador and a graduate of University College, London, he discusses the problems of Lebanon more in the manner of a dilettante academic than of a *gauleiter*. In the words of a British diplomat, "he's so charming, it distorts one's judgement".

Lubrani was in London last week with a delegation from the Dayan Centre for Middle Eastern and African Studies, invited by the Royal Institute of International Affairs. He was clearly glad of the break. After Lebanon, the relative tranquillity of St James's Square made him feel he was on a different planet.

His last diplomatic post was as head of the Israeli mission in Iran for the last four years of the Shah's rule. Was it true, I asked, that he had given advance warning of the revolution? "Yes I did... I certainly foresaw a convulsion, a tremendously potent convulsion in the offing, and I warned my government well in advance."

But had he foreseen the religious character of the convulsion? "Yes. Having gone to Iran from Ethiopia, I had seen a monarchy actually in the process of decay. I realized very early in my stay that the only organized infrastructure which had leeway to operate within the country was the religious community."

He had found out that Savak - the Shah's secret police - paid a lot of attention to this problem, "and what I think is that those young mullahs recruited by the Savak to join the religious community, to go through the seminaries, at a certain juncture exchanged sides, and they injected into this rather medieval, Byzantine kind of religious infrastructure, modern techniques, modern thought, modern press relations and so on. When I look at our religious establishment I see all sorts of similarities."

In Lebanon, however, he sees a different situation: "certainly, Shia

is Shia, but one shouldn't forget the Shia of Iran is an Aryan Shia, and the Lebanese Shia is a Semitic Shia: the people are of a different milieu down-to-earth, simple people. Religion is very orthodox, but they want to live and live. They are in the midst of a highly important fight within the Lebanese political constituency - to establish their predominance in Lebanon. This is nothing to do with the conflict with Israel."

So why is Israel having to adopt such a tough policy towards them? "One of the ways we keep law and order in Lebanon is to use intelligence intelligently - getting at sources of trouble without causing - how would you say? - communal damage. When we had information about individuals preparing or having perpetrated acts of terror, we went into villages to find and apprehend them, going into proscribed houses."

"But when the Awali bridges were opened and were free for traffic (after the first phase of the withdrawal from Lebanon), a lot of saboteurs and their equipment began flowing down, and information about their presence in certain villages began coming in at a tremendous rate. Then we had to decide that, instead of going into proscribed houses, we would have to go into villages, close them, and go on a house-to-house basis."

"This was construed by the media to be the 'iron fist', because what happened was that we went into these villages, we declared a curfew, and we told the village in its language that they should stay in their homes, and that anybody who moved would be doing so at his own risk."

So are the casualties inevitable? "Let me make one point clear: we are dealing with an army. Nobody claimed that we are angels, but I can tell you that the orders under which our soldiers are operating are unequivocal and strict with regard to human lives. They have to conform to all the constraints which a soldier of a civilized country has to conform to before opening fire to kill, and at times one feels bitter irony and cynical when one deals with the Lebanon. But we have to do

checking, and they were blown up with the car while actually checking."

Israel, he insists, is now getting out of Lebanon as fast as it can, and hopes to complete the process by June, but his own overriding preoccupation is not to leave behind conditions which would soon force Israel to go back in.

The message that Israel is trying to convey is that "there will be a degree of reciprocity: I cannot see any government in Israel compromising with a situation where life in the settlements along our border in the north will become untenable while life in the villages across the border will continue normally."

It is in an attempt to prevent this, he says, that Israel is trying to organize a security zone within which, after the Israelis leave, the local people can ensure that their villages are not used for attacks on Israeli territory and so do not become targets for inevitable reprisals. The zone would be "very confined and limited" - certainly not deep enough to prevent any "ballistic threat" to Israel - but should "serve as a filter against massive physical penetration."

No one in Israel, he adds, expects to be able to prevent a single Katyusha rocket from falling on any of Israel's northern villages. The question is not whether Katyushas will penetrate but at what pace and what strength and what will be their accuracy and effectiveness."

The most crucial problem for Israel in Lebanon, according to Lubrani, is the lack of a "viable, responsible address across the border" - i.e. an authority able and willing to prevent "irresponsible acts" jeopardizing the country's security.

"We had hoped that the Shia establishment would be cohesive and bold enough to regard itself as such an address for the areas to be controlled by Shia. We made it absolutely clear to the leadership that we should be prepared to hand to them all predominantly Shiite areas, for them to take over and be responsible for, on one condition - that these areas do not become bases for attacks against us."

But there was no responsible Shiite leader bold or subtle enough to actually be standing right here in the Lord Raithe? As if in unspoken sympathy we changed the subject and started talking about cars. Credit



Uri Lubrani against iron fists 'on principle'

Roger Scruton

The paths blocked by anti-racists

"The only choice is: either bourgeois or socialist ideology: there is no middle road..." So wrote Lenin in 1902. Two decades later Gramsci, leader of the Italian Communist Party, wrote that "between fascism and communism there is no middle road," a sentiment with which his rival, Mussolini, agreed. In 1942, the Czech communist, Moravec, broadcast to his homeland that "the only thing to be decided today is whether Europe is to be national socialist or Bolshevik. There is no third solution." And every reader of *Pravda* or *Rude Prava* will be familiar with the editorial which begins: "Only the Leninist path is the true path of socialist construction. There is no alternative except counter-revolution. Between revolution and counter-revolution there is no third way..."

Such language comes naturally to those who have succumbed to "the totalitarian temptation". But Jean-Francois Revel had more in mind, in coining that phrase, than the Manichean desire to divide the world into exhaustive spheres of good and evil. The totalitarian mentality wishes not merely to divide but also to rule. Moreover, because it sees itself locked in battle with an enemy who might establish himself anywhere and at any time, it must rule over everything. The mark of totalitarian government is therefore intolerance of every institution in which "the enemy" might find a voice.

Hence totalitarianism in power passes rapidly from the liquidation of political opponents to the more important task of establishing control over subordinate institutions: over schools, universities and the press, over the judiciary, over industries and unions, over churches, youth organizations and societies of every description. Jean-Francois Revel was right to distinguish authoritarianism from totalitarianism: for dictatorial power may exist side by side with free associations, as in Franco's Spain.

Of course, dictatorship colours the surrounding society, even when it does not exert total control over it. But someone who says there can be no distinction between totalitarian and authoritarian government - who believes that societies are either totalitarian or democratic - has himself succumbed to the totalitarian temptation. For him, too, there is no third way.

Of course there is a third way, and a fourth, and a fifth, and a twentieth. Drop from your eyes the distorting lens of either/or of left/right, socialism/capitalism, bourgeois/proletarian, Jew/Aryan, black/white, good/evil - and you will see that the possibilities are multitudes, and that none of them is perfect. Open your mind to the truth and regard no one as your rooted enemy save only the one who says "there is no third way, no middle road, no compromise with them."

Until recently that injunction was tacitly obeyed by the mass of British people, and by those who governed them, but times have changed. It is no longer possible to assume that your opponent acts in a spirit of compromise, or that he respects the truth as something

independent of his own conceptions. Truth, for the totalitarian, is power and must therefore be appropriated as his own exclusive possession, as his own compromise is not for him while it is for you or me - an ability, what it is for you or me - an ability to renounce, in the face of opposition, even one's most cherished purposes - but a manoeuvre, another means to the same end of total domination.

The totalitarian mentality does not function properly, however, until it has possessed itself of an ideology - a system of thought which divides the world effectively into "good" and "evil", into those who are with us and those who are against us, and therefore are not with us. By a peculiar inversion against us. By a peculiar inversion the modern totalitarian who sees the Nazi not as his fellow-in-delusion but as his quintessential foe has built up an ideology from "anti-racism", an ideology from anti-racism. He believes in no middle road. If you are not with me, then you are against me, and therefore a racist.

The anti-racist movement, like the Nazi movement whose habits of vilification it imitates, is attempting to gain control of important autonomous institutions, in particular those where inconvenient truths may be uttered and where influence may be exercised. To other than its own may flourish. To anyone who has studied the rise of totalitarian movements it will come as no surprise to find that the anti-racist movement to control local government and schools; two crucial centres through which power may be exerted not over the state but over something which for the totalitarian mind is far more important: civil society. Through schools and local administration the lives of citizens can in the end be more effectively controlled than through the distant thunder of an increasingly impotent government.

The first consequences are already upon us. The IEA has begun its expected campaign of censorship, seeking to remove from school libraries all books, regardless of their literary or intellectual merit, which offend the anti-racists. Mr Ray Honeyford, the Bradford headmaster who wrote a seriously argued article, almost every word of which I believe to be true, and whose message is that the anti-racist ideology is a tissue of lies, has now been suspended, purely because the anti-racists wanted to make an example of him.

Such instances are minor, but they contain a serious warning. They show that a totalitarian mentality is once again growing in the political subsoil. Censorship, intimidation, the ruthless silencing of representative opponents, the gradual control of subordinate institutions, the manipulation of ignorant sentiment, and ideology of "good" and "evil", all these are now on the march behind a banner which says "He who is not with us is against us: there is no third way." Or, in the words of the GLC's latest anti-racist poster: "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem."

And as before, the solution is to be final. The author is editor of the *Salisbury Review*.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Waiting for Ms Write

There were six of us in the pub the other night. All men, of course. Our womenfolk were at home writing books about men, or off interviewing men for TV programmes about men, or just talking to publishers about the idea of, you know, a book about men from a different angle - anyway, there were six of us at the old Lord Raithe. And the talk drifted round to what men like talking about best when men are together. Themselves. And their effect on women.

"I honestly and truly think that Anna Ford fancied me," said Greg. Greg had been interviewed by Anna Ford for a book, and never let us forget it. "She never took her eyes off me. Recorded every word I said. It was like she was transfixed. I've been approached by several women since then doing books about me, but I've always turned them down - I mean, after Anna Ford, it wouldn't mean much, would it? I remain faithful to her in my own way."

"Bit old-fashioned, Greg boy," said Toby. "I've talked to so many female researchers I can hardly remember their names. Lovely, all of them."

Toby had appeared in a *Forty Minutes* documentary on adultery or chastity or something, and was now in big demand for spot interviews. Bert was more of a newspaper man and tended to appear in serious features called "Men in a Women's World" which, as he was a dress designer, seemed fair enough. Alec had a gimmick none of the rest of us could boast: he had a woman boss and the heading "When a Woman is Boss" was rarely absent from the better women's magazines.

"How about you, Dave?" said Greg. "You're keeping very quiet. What have you been up to then?"

"Nothing much," said Dave. "Work. Fixing the car. Teaching the kids about computers."

"No, no," said Bert. "Women, Dave. Who's been talking to you about being a man, eh, know what I mean?"

"Nobody," said Dave. "Never been approached by a woman interviewer in my life." There was a gasp. It seemed incredible. Could there possibly be a man left in England who hadn't been in-debited by a woman? And could he actually be standing right here in the Lord Raithe? As if in unspoken sympathy we changed the subject and started talking about cars. Credit

cards and computers - the other things men like talking about when they themselves and which make it so incredibly boring being a man, the sort of thing you long to talk about to Anna Ford.

But later I managed to get Dave by himself. I sensed I had a bit of a scoop here. The man who had never told his life story to a woman. Could make a life story for the paper.

"Have you never wanted to, Dave?" I asked. "Mean, tell everything to a woman? All about being a man? Being trapped in a man's world, being condemned to be macho and competitive and everything?"

"God, I have," said Dave. "I remember being at school, and being forced to play sports the whole time. I had no desire to get muddy and tackle people round the knees and be kicked round the pitch. I felt forced to adopt alien physical values."

"Knock it off, Dave," I said. "We all felt like that. None of us liked sport. Everyone knows that."

"Not women," said Dave. "Men know it, but women don't. Anyway, my first sexual experience was at 19, and it had this incredibly deep and meaningful conversation with an older woman. It was beautiful."

"But nothing happened?"

"Of course not. Sex is OK, but talking about sex - that's wonderful. You're a man, you know that."

"Well, tell it to a woman."

"I wish I could," said Dave bitterly. "Oh, if only I could meet the right woman writer and get it all off my chest."

"You could always call up a phone-in programme on the radio and chat to an understanding expert."

"That's kinky," said Dave. "And cheap. I want the real thing."

"Well, at least you're talking to me about it."

"I know," said Dave. "And I wish I wasn't. Telling a man about your emotional life - well, it's not natural. And if you're going to stick all this in your blasted column, at least change my name to protect me."

And so I have. But if any woman writer should read this, one who is still short of a sensitive subject to fill out a chapter on men, she need only get in touch with me.

Dave is out of the country just now, actually.

But I would be happy to talk to her, Oh, so very happy.

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THE TRAVEL BUG

Mrs Thatcher has returned from her tour of the Far East to face two distinct charges. The first is that by her remarks in Malaysia on the coal strike she used the tour "as a platform to insult and attack her fellow citizens back home" (Mr Gerald Kaufman) and has been "crowing" over the miners (Mr Roy Hattersley) and that she has "defamed her own people" (Mr Neil Kinnock). The second, and very different charge, heard more from Conservative than from Labour critics is that she took on far too much at the wrong time by sentencing herself to a trip of such punishing speed that at one point she gave the impression, by a slip of the tongue, that she thought she was still in Malaysia when she had moved on to Indonesia. The second charge has something in it. The first, of which Mr Kinnock and his friends will make as much hay as they can in the House of Commons this afternoon, has nothing in it at all.

There is a perfectly sensible convention that when politicians go abroad they should not take their domestic quarrels with them. In particular, they should not attack their rivals personally. Inevitably, that is an inhibition which normally lies heavier on opposition than on governing politicians. Those in government are not anxious, when seated at the international top tables (as Lord Wilson of Rievaulx used to call them) to draw their foreign colleagues' attention to those who might one day supplant them, even by criticism. Opposition politicians, on the other hand, have to keep on the attack and get themselves noticed. But by democratic convention they rightly refrain from challenging an elected government before an audience with no voting rights to remove it. Before a foreign audience, the right posture is

acceptance of the legitimate authority.

Yet there is no reason why opposition politicians should not (and they do) try to persuade foreign audiences of the good sense of their policies. Mr Kinnock is entitled to try to convert the Americans to the cause of unilateral nuclear disarmament for Britain, and to his views on Nato. Mr Hattersley is free to preach deficit financing on Wall Street. Mrs Thatcher is therefore also entitled to extol her policies on financial, defence and industrial matters - and, in particular, to allay misgivings about the state of Britain, which was what she was trying to do in her replies to Malaysian questions at the Institute of Public Administration in Kuala Lumpur.

After all, that strike by its length and virulence did great damage to overseas confidence in the British economy and was regularly cited as one cause for the then falling pound. Reassurance was in order, and Mrs Thatcher was simply trying to tell her audience that industrial relations in Britain are a great deal better and more stable than they might think. At no point did she "crow" over the members of trade unions, or "defame" working people. She did not even name Mr Scargill. Indeed, her remarks were specifically a tribute to the working miners, and to the steel, rail and other workers whose refusal to support the strike was really responsible for "seeing it off" (though that colloquialism might have been better avoided). If Mr Kinnock thinks that this was defaming the British people, what does that opinion imply of the conduct of millions of working trade unionists?

The more substantial charge against the Prime Minister is that, by comparison with Sir Geoffrey Howe's statesmanlike

progress through Eastern Europe, her commercial tour was too rapid, too shallow and too tiring to do Mrs Thatcher much good or help her to give leisureed reflection to the real problems of Britain. But the comparison with the Howe trip is more than a little odious. For one thing it does help Britain that the Prime Minister is prepared to bang the commercial drum for it. For another, this tour did serve a diplomatic purpose. It is absurd to denigrate the value of the long-needed trip to Malaysia (where there has been an explicit bias against buying British), or of the first ever Prime Ministerial visit to Indonesia, or of talks with the new Indian Prime Minister at this stage.

The more valid criticism is that the Prime Minister would use the parliamentary recesses better by taking a break to reflect on the problems of Britain at home instead of wearing herself out with such a trying tour. Yet if the tour had taken place as planned at the end of the last long recess (it was postponed by the miners' strike) it would not have looked so out of place. Besides, we have to take the Prime Minister as she is, and she is temperamentally averse to holidays. This kind of working change of scene abroad is obviously her kind of refreshment.

Nevertheless, Prime Ministers, especially in their second term, do need time off on the metaphorical golf course to think about where they are going and Mrs Thatcher is no exception. She should not underestimate the value of taking time to stand and stare for a few days, now and then. This was a fully justified tour and Mr Kinnock's and Mr Kaufman's charges are absurd. But it is not how she should spend most of her recesses from now on.

TRUST IN A POSTAL VOTE

Now that Mr Ron Todd, the winner, has indicated his provisional approval of a re-run of the election to the general secretaryship of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Mr Moss Evans and the union's executive committee should not hesitate to set one in motion. Mr Todd has sensibly said that to enter upon the responsibilities to which he has been elected, "I want the confidence, trust and unity of the membership".

That cannot now be had without a new ballot. It certainly cannot be had by Mr Moss Evans telling Mr George Wright, the loser, that he has not made out a prima facie case that there were serious irregularities in the conduct of the election. Too many detailed allegations have been made known, and some investigated, for that sort of assurance to carry conviction. What is more if the next general secretary is to start off with the confidence, trust and unity of the membership the new ballot had

better be a postal ballot. That procedure alone is sufficiently cheat-proof to suit an organization as large, spread, disparate and politically charged as the TGWU.

The Government too should be thinking along the same lines. Its Trade Union Act of last year prescribed secret ballots for election to the principal executive posts within trade unions; for the endorsement of industrial action by a trade union if it is to hold on to its immunity in tort; and for the periodical authorization of separate funds held for political purposes. The Government however declined to stipulate in its legislation that the secret ballots should be postal without exception. It ignored much urgent advice, including that of the Social Democratic Party and some of its own supporters in Parliament. Instead the Act lays down a list of requirements for the conduct of ballots and provides a remedy in case of failure either through the

certification officer or through the high court.

This is a weakness in the Act, a failure to make tight its widely approved objective of having the major corporate decisions of trade unions amenable to democratic sanction. The Act calls for early amendment in that respect. In fact, immediate amendment; for between now and the end of next March all those trade unions which have political funds and have not had a vote of the membership to approve them within the past ten years (which is to say most of the trade unions with political funds) must ballot their members on the question. On that issue, more perhaps than any other, the votes should mirror the minds of the members. That indicates a postal ballot without the option. And that would require amendment of the 1984 Act, not next time a trade union Bill comes round, not next session even, but by a one-clause Bill this session.

BEYOND DR BANDA

President Hastings Banda of Malawi who arrives in Britain for a state visit today would have been less welcome a year ago when his political opponent Orton Chirwa was still under sentence of death, after a treason trial whose judicial proceedings have not gone unquestioned. As it is Mr Chirwa and his wife are serving life imprisonment instead, in a Malawi jail with the Bible for company. Whatever the rights and wrongs of this, last June's reprieve has lifted by several hundred feet the main cloud over relations between his country and ours. He might now reflect on what must surely be his last such visit to London that a little more clemency still would enhance rather than endanger his reputation as Africa's eldest statesman.

He has by and large successfully guided what used to be Nyasaland since independence in 1964. His simple objectives and pragmatic approach to black-and-white politics at home and abroad have won him few friends among the front-line states - but have surely been good for his country.

Malawi has efficient tea and tobacco industries, grows more maize than it needs and last year enjoyed a healthy trade surplus with Britain - its biggest export market. He has foreign debt problems - some 30 per cent of his budget goes on servicing debts. But for a country with no mineral deposits, Malawi's economy is doing reasonably well.

This is not however to minimize its problems. As a country it remains desperately poor. Dr Banda might claim to have improved the diet, the housing and the health of his people during the past 21 years. But most of the people still live in mud huts and one in five children still dies before the age of five, from malnutrition or an associated disease. The president himself may have avoided some of the more grandiose development schemes which attract the Third World. But he still overpays - and five "royal" residences is surely excessive even by British standards.

The uncomfortable truth is that Dr Banda at the age of 87, or thereabouts, has still much to

do. Rising population for instance has caused a reduction in the ratio of doctors to their patients, not because of a decline in the number of doctors but because they cannot keep pace. Birth control is unpopular among rural people who look on large families as a matter for pride and of social necessity. But Banda may have the authority to overrule those attitudes.

What happens when Dr Banda goes? John Tembo, former governor of the central bank, has been tipped as his successor - and is, perhaps significantly, accompanying him to Britain. But Tembo is unpopular at home. There is a procedure in the constitution for picking a successor - but there are few signs that any candidates are being groomed.

An orderly succession - though all too rare in Africa - is important to Britain because Dr Banda for all his faults is a stabilizing pro-Western force in Southern Africa. Mrs Thatcher, whom he sees tomorrow, should tell him so.

examination and assessment in the form of the Oxford Certificate of Educational Achievement (OCEA), which provides the carrot of motivation and achievement for all youngsters from the early years of secondary school.

The delegates have also recently opposed the wasteful expense and dangerously diverting irrelevance of the proposals for merit and distinction certificates, which will in fact be narrowing in their effect, in the new GCSE. This examination properly has the virtue of examining at standards which will not be norm-referenced, unlike its predecessors, GCSE and CSE, which thereby condemned the majority of students to the certainty of failure whatever their efforts.

Your leader rightly points out the

discontinuity of thinking and action between the different departments of state for education and training. The main coherent initiative and thought over the last few years on examination development for all youngsters, with their wide variety of talents, from age 11 to age 18 have come indeed from "the formidable gentlemen who make up the 'delegates of Oxford'". Far from standing in the way of a broader view of education, they have provided the vision for others to use.

Yours faithfully,
TIM BRIGHOUSE,
Chief Education Officer,
Oxfordshire County Council,
Maddingley House,
Oxford.

Battling for jobs

From the Chief Education Officer, Oxfordshire County Council
Sir, Your leader (April 4) on the White Paper, *Education and Training for Young People*, is both right and wrong. It is right in welcoming a coherent and broader strategy - and hopes a publicly and properly funded programme - for the education and training of 16 to 18 year-olds. It is wrong in its identification of those hostile to change.

The delegates of Oxford, among whom I am privileged to serve as a representative of the local education authorities along with others drawn from industry, the unions and the university, have instigated a far-reaching reform of the process of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diplomacy behind closed doors

From Mr Gareth Morris
Sir, I wonder if I am alone in deploring the Foreign Secretary's Prague last week. His encouragement of senior members of his staff to have chandise conversations with dissenters while they were guests of the Czech Government seems to me to be highly discourteous, and unworthy of British standards of good manners.

Yours faithfully,
GARETH MORRIS,
4 Alwyne Place,
Canonsbury, N1,
April 14.

Malawi prisoners

From the President of the Social Democratic Party
Sir, This week's State visit by Dr Hastings Banda to this country has brought Malawi into the public view. While much has been achieved in Malawi in the 21 years since independence, occasional cases still arise which cause concern about legal processes in that country.

Orton Chirwa is a former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Malawi, and as a key figure in the independence negotiations for Nyasaland in the late 1950s and early 1960s, is known and respected by many British politicians.

In May, 1983, he and his wife Vera were convicted of treason and sentenced to death. A year later their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment by Dr Banda, following appeals by several African and European governments and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

I share Amnesty International's concern, as stated in the report published last December, for Orton and Vera Chirwa, who are held to be prisoners of conscience, imprisoned for their political views. Neither their trial before the Southern Regional Traditional Court in Malawi nor their appeal hearing before the National Traditional Court of Appeal met with internationally accepted standards of a fair trial.

The National Traditional Court of Appeal has itself raised serious questions about the conduct of the trial before the lower court - for example, refusal to admit defence witnesses and evidence clearly inadmissible in law, but then inexplicably disregarded these and other shortcomings in order to uphold the verdict and sentence imposed by the lower court.

Orton and Vera Chirwa's trial cannot conceivably be considered to have been fair. No convincing evidence has been produced to show that either of them used or advocated violence. Their conditions of imprisonment give great cause for concern.

I therefore join Amnesty International in renewing its appeal to Life-President Banda to set aside the sentences imposed on the Chirwas and release them from imprisonment without further delay.

Yours etc,
SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, President,
Social Democratic Party,
4 Cowley Street, SW1,
April 12.

Technology in place

From Professor Yorick Wilks
Sir, When Professor MacDowell's letter (April 2) argues that "technology will have been a failure" unless the number of technology jobs at the end of the century is small, then he is possibly indulging in wishful thinking but certainly stating the reverse of the truth.

He simply confuses cause and effect when he identifies the dirty, tiring and repetitive jobs that technology replaces with "technological jobs" which are generally clean and pleasant, like his own. Later, when deploring Lord Young's claim that "we have more young people today who understand computer Basic than French", he repeats the error: "Only a limited number of people need to use computers". If that is so, then it is safe to say that no one has any idea what that limit is, short of the whole literate population.

The error is that no one has any idea of the limit of application of computers, which certainly extends to the study and lexicography of Greek, Professor MacDowell's own subject.

Training for leisure, which he seems to think the function of learning French, must first be paid for with efficiency, even if that comes from the use of outdated classical languages like Basic.

Yours sincerely,
YORICK WILKS,
As from Manz's Hotel,
Lisle Street, W1.

Drought in Sahel

From Emeritus Professor Hubert H. Lamb

Sir, Mr A. T. Grove, Director of the Cambridge Centre of African Studies, is right to sound the warning in his letter to you (April 8) that a strange turn in climate for today's Sahel is a big part in the horrifying drought, and starvation situation that now confronts so many countries in Africa - that it is not all man-made or due to political regimes - and there is a recognizable possibility that it may go on for some years or decades yet. It is clear that this is a large-scale phenomenon.

Mr Grove's letter draws attention also to the long time-scale involved in finding parallels for today's situation: the greatest drought in the Sahel zone generally for at least 80 to 100 years, and the 1984 Nile flood the lowest for 350 years.

Though no one can be sure that "normal", or even heavy, rains will

A Japanese lesson for British dons

From Professor Edward Stamp

Sir, The Jarratt report argues that universities will only be able to perform effectively if they adopt a managerial style similar to that used in British industry. Vice-chancellors are to become chief executives, senates and councils are to be streamlined, and given powers akin to those of boards of directors. Committees must be made smaller and less representative, and this more businesslike approach is to be epitomized by planning downwards, from the chief executive's office, in an atmosphere that sounds like a cost accountant's paradise.

Although British vice-chancellors have been lamentably slow to say so, one of this country's major post-war success stories is the performance of its universities. They are renowned and envied throughout the world for the top quality of their teaching and research, their flexibility, and their high productivity. It is absurd to suggest that their current problems (due largely to Government short-sightedness in financial planning) can be cured by adopting the management practices of British industry.

It is the incompetence of the management of British industry that has provided the main impetus for this country's economic decline. Nor does the Midland Bank, of which Sir Alex Jarratt is vice-chairman, provide an inspiring

example for universities to emulate, as its recent failures in California and Australia demonstrate.

A far better model for British academics to adopt is given by Japanese industry. It is generally acknowledged that Japanese companies are successful because they promote the widest possible consultation among managers and employees, innovation from the bottom up is encouraged, consensus is a key organisational goal, new ideas are constantly sought after, and security of tenure is one of the guarantees of employee effort, morale and loyalty.

Sir Keith Joseph and Sir Alex Jarratt might like to reflect on the similarity of these foundations of Japanese industrial successes to the current methods of governance of British universities. In contrast to this the organisational structure of British industry is a bad example to follow, and British industrialists who argue otherwise should remember that people in glasshouses are well advised not to cast the first stone.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD STAMP, Director,
International Centre for
Research in Accounting,
The University of Lancaster,
Gillow House,
Baillifrage,
Lancaster,
April 12.

Aid to the needy

From the Director General of the Save the Children Fund

Sir, Your leading article, "Small is beautiful" (March 25) is a contribution to the important debate on Third World starvation in the House of Lords on March 27. The article sets considerable store on the role of non-government organizations both in channelling Government-financed aid to famine-affected countries and in the longer term enabling these countries to feed themselves.

Whereas non-government organizations are distributing aid you state that "the taxpayer as donor acquires some additional reassurance along with the charitable donor that the food aid is reaching its correct target". Speaking for the Save the Children Fund, I can certainly give that reassurance in that we employ our own staff, both nationals and expatriates, to do all we can to ensure that aid does reach those for whom it is intended, also to train indigenous workers in the skills required to administer and run such feeding programmes.

However, the capacities of non-

government organisations must be seen within the context of the enormity and the complexity of the task in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Chad and a number of other African countries.

Faith in the role of non-government organizations must not lead to governments taking a back seat. We need governments' commitment to short and long-term financial assistance. We need governments to break the bureaucracy of the EEC, to secure international action through the UN and to maintain channels of communication with the governments of developing countries.

The British public, and indeed members of the public throughout the world, have responded and continue to respond generously to the needs of the people of Africa. This generosity will only be rewarded if governments play their full part.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
Director General,
The Save the Children Fund,
Mary Datchelor House,
17 Grove Lane,
Camberwell, SE5,
March 26.

No philatelic first

From Mr John Rimmer

Sir, You report the Post Office as describing the forthcoming British composers stamps as being "a philatelic first for Britain", because of the square shape (April 4). This seems a remarkable thing to say, as not only have square-shaped stamps been used in many countries since the nineteenth century, but the Post Office itself issued a set of square stamps just a year or so back to mark the anniversary of the College of Arms.

A rather more interesting fact about the composers stamps is that they appear to be invalid for overseas mail. A regulation of the Universal Postal Union, not always strictly observed, stipulates that stamps of all member nations have to show their value in figures, rather than in words.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RIMMER,
64 Alric Avenue,
New Malden, Surrey,
April 4.

Silver lining

From Mr E. M. Friend

Sir, Reference the current correspondence on the postal service, my mother and father were married in 1910. At the time he was medical superintendent at St George's Hospital and my mother was a sister at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

After his death in 1956 I found a number of his letters written to my mother before they were married and in several of them he says: "I am writing this in haste to catch the 6 o'clock (pm) post so that you will receive it tonight".

All had f.d. stamps on the envelopes and, judging by her replies, catching the first post the next morning, had arrived the night before!

Yours truly,
E. M. FRIEND,
46 Furze Croft,
Furze Hill,
Hove, Sussex,
April 1.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 16 1912

The White Star Line's *Titanic*, 46,329 tons, left Queenstown on her maiden voyage on April 10, 1912 with 1,340 passengers and 880 crew. On the night of the 14th she struck an iceberg when at 41° 46'N and 14° 57'W, and sank the following morning at 2.15 a.m. The optimistic time of the despatch below is in stark contrast to subsequent reports: of the passengers, 815 were drowned and of the crew, 688.

TITANIC DISASTER

SUNK AFTER COLLISION WITH AN ICEBERG

THE NEWS IN NEW YORK

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

NEW YORK, April 15. Shortly before midnight wireless distress signals sent the startling news that the White Star Line *Titanic* on her maiden voyage to New York had struck an iceberg and urgently required immediate assistance. Soon afterwards another message reported that the vessel was sinking by the bow and that the passengers were taking to the lifeboats. Other very brief dispatches followed, and these, although painfully vague, suggested, even in their bare outlines, the possibility of the worst calamity in Transatlantic annals. The conflicting early morning reports bewildered everyone, including the officials of the White Star Company here, but Mr Franklin, the vice-president, reassuringly insisted that from the context of the brief messages from the ship it was evident that the passengers were in no great danger.

As the day wore on and news filtered in it was established beyond doubt that all the passengers had been transferred to lifeboats which were quickly radioed to the wireless calls for help. But even at the time of writing only the most meagre details have been received at the Mercantile Marine headquarters here, and these have been sent in relay by wireless and land wires. All efforts to get later direct news from the *Titanic* regarding the nature and the extent of the accident so far have been futile. For some reason the wireless and telegraph lines are greatly confused.

The *Titanic* or some other ship were heard in the steamship *Virginian* at 12.27 a.m., but the operator found them blurred and they ended abruptly. Other messages have come bit by bit from the vessels which reached the *Titanic* or were near her. The greater part of the news now available consists chiefly of Press reports based on various sources of information, and in the absence of direct official advice these must be accepted with some reserve. All the accounts agree, and this is officially confirmed that many passengers were transferred safely in calm weather to the Cunard liner *Carpathia*, also that the Allan liner *Virginian* and *Parian* were standing by. It is considered unlikely that the rest of the passengers have been taken off by the steamers and by the *Olympic*, which rushed to the aid of her sister-ship and should have reached the *Titanic* this afternoon.

It was only when the *Olympic*, bound east and 280 miles from the scene, got into wireless touch with the *Virginian* at noon that the first reassuring message came through and relieved the suspense of many hours. I understand that the *Titanic*'s passengers will be taken to Halifax and brought overland to New York. Arrangements to that end have been made with the Newfoundland railway and with the Government, immigration, Customs, and health authorities. The *White Star* liner *Baltic* was reported this afternoon as hurrying to join the other vessels to take the *Titanic*'s passengers from them so that the latter may reach Halifax more quickly. It is a strange coincidence that the *Baltic* performed a like service for the Republic's passengers in January, 1908, taking them off the steamship *Florida*, which rammed the Republic.

The latest despatches report that the *Titanic*'s watertight compartments forward are holding well and that the prospect of getting her to port is considered good. One message says that the *Virginian* is towing her to Halifax, while other reports are proceeding slowly under her own steam for New York. Still another message declares that the *Titanic* is slowly sinking and that the *Virginian* is making an almost hopeless effort to tow the giant liner first towards the Halifax coast. These will illustrate how conflicting are messages thus far available.

Holy prints

From Mr L. J. Kastner

Sir, The writer of the Times Diary (April 3) seems surprised that the *Saudi Gazette* warns its readers against using its pages for ignoble purposes. But there is nothing new about this.

The Flemish diplomat Augier de Busbecq, sent to Turkey in 1534 by Ferdinand, King of the Romans, reported that among the Turks, devout followers of the Prophet, great respect was paid to any piece of paper because the name of God might be written on it, and therefore they do not allow the smallest scrap to lie on the ground but pick it up and stick it quickly in some chink or crack that it may not be trodden on...

The Turks believed that in the next world the path to eternal bliss, crossed red-hot gridiron where paper miraculously reappears and protect them against the heat.

Yours etc,
L. J. KASTNER,
Tordene,
37 St Anne's Road,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex.

Folly de grandeur?

From Mr Margaret MacKeith

Sir, How nice to see Mr Benn reintroducing the late eighteenth century aristocratic diversion of "encouraging a hermit to live in a rustic folly in one's landscaped park" (report, April 13).

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET MACKEITH,
4 Breton House,
Barbican, EC2,
April 14.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Bid excitement among stores gives equities their best day for a month

By Derek Pain and Alison Eadie

Spot the next stores group to collect a bid. That was the stock market's favourite pastime yesterday after the £605.8 million takeover for the MFI furniture group by Associated Dairies Group.

The Asda bid sent MFI shares soaring and created intense excitement among other retailing shares.

The activity on the stores pinch, plus strengthening hopes that sterling's exuberant performance on the foreign exchange that sterling's exuberant performance on the foreign exchange market will pull interest rates lower, combined to give equities their best day for a month. And Government stocks joined in the romp, rising almost £1 as the Treasury 9 per cent 1994 "tap" was exhausted.

The better-than-expected Glaxo Group interim figures from Friday's Hawker Siddeley results also helped equity sentiment.

At the close, the FT 30 shares index was 9.2 points higher at 4777.0 points. At one time it had registered a 10.8 points gain. The more broadly based FT SE share index finished at its best level of the day, 12.7 points up at 1,288.5 points.

MFI shares surged 52p to 305p. The shares had jumped in late trading on Friday. Asda was up stronger at 164p.

Debenhams, which most observers are convinced will soon receive a bid, rose 16p to 244p. The pace was too hot to be maintained and the shares closed at 259p.

But speculation continues to mount that Debenhams days of independence will not last much longer. Habitat Mothercare remains in the bid frame. So do Harris Queensway and Heron International - bidding individually or together - and Llantho.

The Bentsalls stores group at one time hit 104p, up 7p, before settling at 101p. British Home Stores, Burton Group, Home Charm, John Menzies, W H Smith and Woolworth Holdings were others to advance strongly.

Dunhill Holdings, controlled by Rothmans International, was 23p harder at 311p. J Hepworth, the next chain, reporting interim figures today - £9.7 million against £6.6 million is expected - gained 12p to 201p and Ward White, with figures on Thursday, jumped 10p to 250p.

Ward White bid unsuccessfully for Foster Brothers Clothing and yesterday the rumour of the shares offered by the winning bid, Sears Holdings, was placed in the market, helping the Sears price 4p better at 86p. Foster was 9p better at 222p in sympathy.

Divons Group, which recently captured the Currys electrical retailing group, was just 2p better at 649p.

Moss Bros, the clothing stores group, gained 18p to 405p. The company is to hold its first brokers' talk-in when it presents its results next week. There are hopes that profits will be about £1 million, against £649,000.

can offshoot, Howard Johnson, is sold the deal will prove rather disappointing.

General Electric Co gained 8p to 194p following further comment that the electrical giant had been put back on Wood Mackenzie's buy list after a long period of unpopularity with the stockbroking world.

Octopus Publishing put on another 50p in front of today's results, taking the share price to £10.50.

Rowntree Macintosh added on 6p to 396p ahead of the shareholders meeting today. Atlantic Computer gained 10p to 400p on double profits.

Brifit, the USM-quoted company which earns 90 per cent of its profit from Pegasus accounting software, made interim profits 106 per cent higher at £510,000. Full-year profits of £1.2 million look likely - a rise of 65 per cent.

Distribution of Pegasus by IBM through its 380 British dealers started only last October, but already accounts for 15 to 20 per cent of turnover. To try to broaden its base away from software, Brifit is looking for acquisitions in hardware selling, where margins are somewhat lower than the 90 per cent gross made by Pegasus. The shares were unchanged at 315p.

Stothert and Pitt continued to climb on big speculation gaining another 15p to 160p.

Taylor Woodrow rose 5p to 373p in front of today's results.

Poseco Minsep gained 7p to 240p on favourable comment. Travis and Arnold was down 3p at 35p on its profits standstill.

Rugby Portland Cement was up 2 1/2p to 132p on a 15 per cent profit improvement.

EIS Group gained 15p to 208p on favourable comment.

Fitch Lovell gained 1p to 213p on news of its £13 million acquisition of Trent Meat, which produces and distributes cooked and continental meats.

Chinco's shares were unchanged at 315p.

Stothert and Pitt continued to climb on big speculation gaining another 15p to 160p.

Taylor Woodrow rose 5p to 373p in front of today's results.

Poseco Minsep gained 7p to 240p on favourable comment. Travis and Arnold was down 3p at 35p on its profits standstill.

Rugby Portland Cement was up 2 1/2p to 132p on a 15 per cent profit improvement.

EIS Group gained 15p to 208p on favourable comment.

Fitch Lovell gained 1p to 213p on news of its £13 million acquisition of Trent Meat, which produces and distributes cooked and continental meats.

Traded option highlights

British Telecom was the most actively traded stock on the London traded options market yesterday. It attracted 576 calls and 105 puts, out of a total of 4,836 calls and 1,754 puts.

Imperial Group was again in demand. Its total was 251 calls and 317 puts.

fact that Morgan Grenfell fund management side sold 500,000 Tootal shares at 74 1/2p on Friday. Morgan Grenfell's corporate finance team is defending Tootal from the unwanted bid from Entrad.

Entrad yesterday managed to buy up a further 3.3 million shares taking its total stake to the permissible limit of 29.9 per cent. Its £128.5 million bid closes on Thursday and a close finish is expected. Entrad is offering 72.5p cash per share plus the 1.87p net second interim dividend.

Pineapple Dance Studios fell 5p to 56p on reports that Mr Morris Masters, husband of Debbie Moore, the chairman had quit to set up a rival operation.

Pestland Industries, with year's profits of £7.6 million against £1.25 million advanced 48p to 635p. Mr Stephen Rubin, chairman, is making a two-for-one share bonus and says that current year first quarter profits are "substantially ahead" of the same period last year.

Cartwright, which is in similar markets to Henderson, making door and window furniture, security locks and partitioning for the building industry, rejected the bid as opportunistic and wholly inadequate.

Cartwright's taxable profits slipped in 1984 to £1.46 million from £1.62 million despite a 5.6 per cent increase in sales. Mr Bob Teare, Cartwright's chairman, said the company wished to remain independent and would defend the bid vigorously.

Henderson's managing director, Mr Norman Parker, who had a meeting with Mr Teare at the beginning of the month to try to persuade him of the industrial logic of the bid, said the two companies were a remarkable fit in all areas and that the combination of the two would enhance marketing strength.

Tootal cased 1 1/2p to 73 1/2p despite buying on the company's behalf by its broker Laing and Cruickshank at prices above the Entrad bid price. Laing bought 2.3 million shares on Friday at 74 1/2p and was in the market again yesterday buying up smaller parcels.

Chinese walls are alive and well in the City as shown by the fact that Morgan Grenfell fund management side sold 500,000 Tootal shares at 74 1/2p on Friday. Morgan Grenfell's corporate finance team is defending Tootal from the unwanted bid from Entrad.

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TEMPUS

Zantac's heyday gives Glaxo a strong tonic

Glaxo shares leaped 80p yesterday to 1160p, after the company announced magnificent profits in line with the performance of Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug. Pretax profits jumped from £117 million to £195 million, and a full-year figure of about £400 million now looks a racing certainty.

Zantac, according to the analysts accounts for about 40 per cent of group profits, a figure that Glaxo is careful not to confirm.

Yet the fact that the shares reacted so strongly to the interim results indicates how much the group has enjoyed vogue rating as a dollar earner. Sterling's strength has left the shares underperforming quite markedly.

Rating the group in future will involve a number of quite precise calculations. On the one hand the shares do appear to contain a currency element. Britain's apparently passive approach to sterling's rapid appreciation must be neutral to negative for the multiple.

On the other hand, there seems little to stop pretax profits appreciating rapidly during the heyday of Zantac, perhaps to about £600m by 1986. Considering the strength of group cash flow, liquid balances by then could be about £400 million, leaving the group nicely positioned for a strategic leap into the United States. The analysts favour Squibb as a prime bid target and point out how sterling's appreciation might benefit the group's capital plans.

Yesterday's figures contained news of key boardroom changes, leaving the balance of corporate probabilities tilted in favour of a more aggressive approach to future expansion. The shares still look cheap, notwithstanding the uncertainty of the currency factor.

Breweries were firm. Allied-Lyons gained 4p to 177p.

The two newcomers both made debuts at above their offer prices.

Wayne Kerr, designer and manufacturer of automatic test equipment and instrumentation for the electronics industry, rose to 145p against an offer price at 130p. The offer was 12.3 times oversubscribed.

Scott Greenham, specialist lifting contractor and crane hirer, closed at 113p against an offer price at 110p.

Extel gained 30p to 360p on reports that the company had sold off the troubled US arm of its computer systems manufacturer Digital Microsystems, which made unquantified losses in the half year to September 1984. Full-year results are due soon.

Shares in Rugby Portland Cement, number three in the list of British cement manufacturers, improved by about 3p yesterday to 132p after better-than-expected figures. Some analysts, badly out with their forecasts, sulked after the group announced a near-15 per cent pretax profit gain to £27.8 million.

Closer examination of the

group's stock market standing, however, reveals yet more surprises. In the course of the last year, the shares have marginally outperformed, an odd, but gratifying, result for a group so closely associated with the politically unfavourable British construction sector.

Rugby's figures justify the market's high hopes. Sales in Britain were ahead by about £10 million to £140 million, reflecting some volume gains when price increases were unattainable. Trading profits of £15.3 million would have been far closer to last year's £16.9 million without the miners' strike. This lopped £1 million off trading profits, and boosted working capital requirements, through precautionary fuel stockpiling. All in all, a good defensive performance.

The group has managed to escape most of the attrition to the profit and loss account from a slowdown in United Kingdom capital spending by judicious investment in countries like the United States and Australia, with less stringent approaches to government borrowing requirements.

Hence the group has secured some "useful" diversification, without weakening the equity base, and looks well placed to enjoy any upturn in British spending whenever that materializes. Meanwhile, bid hopes are in the share price for nothing.

Atlantic Computers' remarkable growth in reported profits by Atlantic Computers continued yet again yesterday with a doubling at the pretax level from £5.2 million to £10.5 million. However, the doubts still remain over the quality and source of those profits.

The main concern is the high level of non-cash profits which relate mainly to the nominal, and estimated, profit on the residual interest in leases. This accounts for 60 per cent of the group's profits and, although it is down from 70 per cent last year, it is still a large proportion. Atlantic wants to reduce it further through diversification.

The company generates the bulk of its profits from the single source of IBM leasing in Britain. Again the proportion of profits from this one business has reduced, from 80 per cent to 65 per cent, but it still leaves Atlantic exposed very much to the fortunes of IBM.

Diversification is on the way, though. Both Lion Systems and MPL Power Systems are shaping up very well and benefiting from access to Atlantic's resources.

The group had net cash of £18 million at the year end, up from £13 million, and it has positive cash flow for 10 months of the year. The balance sheet is therefore strong, but the company will be hard pressed to maintain its rate of profits growth. The shares closed up 10p at 400p but the yield is under 1 per cent and the scope for short-term improvement must be limited.

Much of the recent attention at London and Northern has focused on its United Medical Enterprises subsidiary. It has been the main contributor to increased profits and through the sale of its British hospital assets will add £11.5 million to L & N's coffers.

It comes as something of a surprise to find that the proceeds from the sale of the hospitals are being ploughed into a US quarrying company, L & N's paying £26 million for Rockville Crushed Stone and to help finance the deal the company is asking shareholders for another £14 million through a one-for-four rights issue at 66p.

Considering the group's desire to move away from its traditional construction base into the higher growth areas such as hospital management and oil services, the acquisition of Rockville appears a little mysterious. It had profits of £5.5 million in 1984, so the price L & N is paying is not outrageous.

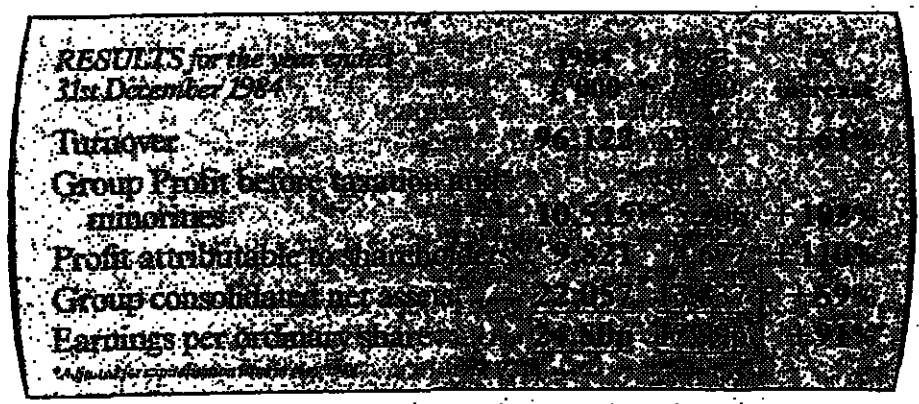
However, there is no natural fit with the company's other US interests and there will be little benefit to the existing domestic quarrying business.

Even the forecast from L & N of group profits of at least £18 million for 1984, up from £15.5 million, could prevent the shares slipping 3p to 80p. The fall is far from being a vote of no confidence, but L & N will need to find some more positive news to push the price forward substantially.

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 - An excellent performance from the Group's recently opened Computer System's subsidiary in France.
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 - Encouraging results from MPL's recently opened U.S.A. operation.
 - Encouraging start to 1985 with an excellent first quarter for the Group.

Atlantic Computers Plc
Atlantic House, Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3EB
Telephone: 01-583 9481 Telex: 268344

Sales jump 30% at W German metal group

Frankfurt (AP-Dow Jones) - The West German metals group Metallgesellschaft has reported a 30 per cent jump in sales to DM75 billion (19.8 billion) in the first half of fiscal 1984/85. The management expects to pay a dividend for the year.

It has not paid an annual dividend since 1980/81 when it paid DM4 a share.

The chairman, Mr Herr Dietrich Natus, said the company's cautious growth plans for the first six months "were significantly exceeded and all divisions are solidly on the plus side."

Herr Natus attributed the improvement partly to "the good economic recovery in the US and the high value of the dollar." He singled out the group's raw materials operation as leading the resurgent sales.

"We are going from month to month and so far every month has been better than the one before," Mr Herr Natus said. "If this development continues I would say that a double-digit dividend (as percentage of sales) would be possible."

Analysts expect the group to pay DM5 per nominal DM50 share in 1984/85.

Presenting the company's final report for fiscal 1983/84, a director, Herr Werner Busch said the company posted a net group profit of DM24.9 million in the year ended September 30, little changed from the DM25 million profit a year earlier.

The net profit was 0.24 per cent of sales in 1983/84, down from 0.26 per cent a year earlier.

Herr Busch confirmed that the company would channel all of the net profit into free reserves.

While net profit was flat, Herr Busch said earnings in the raw materials and processing divisions improved hugely.

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This advertisement has been published by Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited on behalf of the Directors of The Dee Corporation PLC.

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Each Director of The Dee Corporation PLC (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and the opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each of the Directors accepts responsibility accordingly.



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Base Lending Rates

Asda and MFI unveil joint strategy for the superstore revolution

Two of Britain's biggest retailing companies have announced plans to merge. Graham Searjeant looks at the changes on the shopping scene that have prompted the decision.

The merger of Associated Dairies Group, famous for its Asda superstores, and the MFI knockdown furniture chain will, if it goes through, bring together the sixth and fifteenth most valuable retailing groups in Europe to form a combination capable of rivaling the British giants, Marks and Spencer, J. Sainsbury and Boots.

It would be a development stemming straight from the demands of the changing shape of Britain's shopping, rather than more of the size or the accident that MFI's founding shareholders have chosen this moment of still-booming retail sales to bow out.

The traditional patterns of separation between selling food and the mass of hardware, furniture, electrical and do-it-yourself goods, known prosaically in the trade as non-foods, have been breaking down sharply of late.

Asda has made a number of not entirely successful forays into non-foods by buying the carpet group Allied Retailers and dallying at one time with Wades Department Stores. Sainsbury has linked with a Belgian group to develop big do-it-yourself stores for its British Home Stores for its SavaCentre developments, and Marks and Spencer is starting a joint venture with Tesco.

These links stem partly from the rapid growth of the food chains, which have been in the van of development since the rise of the supermarkets in the fifties and sixties, combined with the ever-present temptation of the big firms that emerged to diversify away from



Noel Lister: philosophies in common with ADG

what is essentially a business with low profit margins.

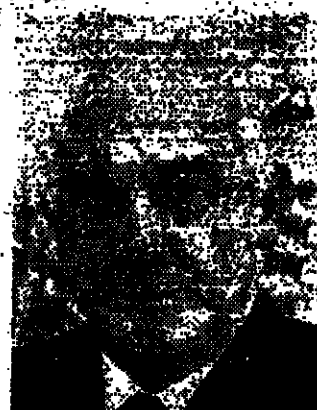
Any such inclination has been fortified by the realization that the highly efficient techniques developed for store management and for anything from building relationships with suppliers, bringing rapid distribution to a fine art, and the latest electronic point of sale technology, can all be applied to a wider range of goods. Yesterday's announcement from ADG and MFI emphasized that "many of the physical characteristics and operating philosophies of the principle business are very similar."

The physical changes however, are now driving Britain's second postwar retailing revolution. In 1973, there were about 45 superstores in Britain according to the research and forecasting group Staniland Hall. This has risen to some 280 and a further 50 or so additional projects already have planning permission. This means stores of around 25,000 square feet.

There has been a dramatic further concentration in the packaged grocery trade. The big multiples increased their shares from 62 per cent in 1980 to 70 per cent just three years later and Staniland Hall forecast that

FIVE-YEAR HISTORY

Associated Dairies	MFI furniture group
November 1980: £37m agreed bid for Allied Retailers	March 1980: £30m agreed bid for Statos Discount
1980 pretax profit £41.9m	April 1980: Group admits it will fail to meet £18m profits forecast
January 1981: £45m rights issue	1980 pretax profit (to May 26): £16.8m
1981 pretax profit (to April 30): £47m	1981 pretax profit £11.9m
1982 pretax profit £73.8m	1982 pretax profit £15.9m
May 1984: Mr John Fletcher quits as managing director of Asda stores	1983 pretax profit £30.8m
1984 pretax profit £97m	October 1983: £29m rights issue
January 1985: £19m sale of Wades department stores	1984 pretax profit £39.9m



Noel Stockdale: leading invasion from the North

superstores alone will account for a fifth of food sales by 1990.

ADG, headed by Mr Noel Stockdale, already has 100 superstores and MFI headed by Mr Noel Lister, operates 127 edge of town sites, mainly for kitchen and bedroom furniture. Such developments are both predicated on the increase in car ownership and the move to once-a-week, one-stop shopping.

By 1982 three out of five families had access to a car for private use and one in six had a second car - the proportion being notably higher in the South-east, where MFI started and ADG is now making a great invasion from its Northern base.

The expansion in the South-east of sites with large areas of ground level car parking re-

quires companies with large resources of both money and planning expertise, whether these are on the edge of towns, completely separate or, as with Sainsbury, in reborn derelict areas in the City.

The idea of superstore sites organized by retailers is beginning to take the lead from large scale shopping centres organized by property developers, and the big investing institutions are now starting to take an interest in this kind of once-dispersed arrangement.

In a sense, finance, planning and superstore expertise have all become overheads and the top groups are keen to spread them over as wide a range of products as possible.

City centres and department store groups are responding to this trend by developing an

alternative of high value-added products and services such as insurance, investment, and semi-banking, while many urban supermarkets are closing to be replaced by smaller fashion and other specialist shops.

The superstores, however, will demand the greatest investment and have the greatest growth potential. It is no accident that both MFI and ADG were looking to expand the range of goods they sell, partly in each others' territory, before they opted to come together.

The South-east battle of the superstores will be highly competitive and, at this level, only the strongest combinations will be able to profit from the rapidly changing face of Britain's shopping.

COMMODITIES REVIEW

Big crop could upset pact on cocoa

Cocoa, that pleasant, innocent and ultimately entirely dispensable commodity, looks as though it is about to reach a prolonged bear trend. The prospect is nicely timed to upset the International Cocoa Agreement, which expires at the end of September.

More important, it is the culmination of a process which began six or seven years ago when cocoa producers planted trees as though prices would remain very high for ever.

Gill & Duffus, the cocoa guru, now considers that the 1984/5 season crop will rise by 18.9 per cent over its predecessor to 1.8 million tonnes. By contrast world grindings, that oddly ugly term for consumption, will be only fractionally higher at 1.7 million tonnes. Stocks should rise by 70,000 tonnes.

The difference between production and consumption is slight, but at the very least the oversupply will not push prices up. The surplus comes, moreover, after two years of modest deficits caused mainly by indifferent weather in west Africa. In every other year since 1977/8 cocoa supply has exceeded demand.

But during these years a considerable acreage of trees has slowly been maturing. Cocoa reached a record spot London price of \$3,740 a tonne in 1977. Today it is below \$2,000 and falling. Despite warnings of long-term problems inherent in planting too many trees because immediate prices were irresistible several important producers went ahead heedless.

It is significant, therefore, that three of the biggest forecast crop increases in the

current season are those of Ivory Coast, Brazil and Malaysia, all of whom deliberately set out several years ago to expand. The Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa producer, has been helped by better weather, but the discernible purchases from that country to mid-March were 453,000 tonnes, compared with 360,000 for the same period in 1983/4.

The total crop should be more than 500,000 tonnes this year. With more than 3.1 million bags (of 60 kilograms each) of its Bahia crop delivered, and with the Bahia Temporal crop running at almost the same level, Brazil could produce 396,000 tonnes of cocoa in 1984/85.

Much of the substantial increase over the previous year's crop of 302,000 tonnes, admittedly a bit low, can be attributed to the continuing expansion of the industry in Bahia state.

If the comparison is with these two leading countries of the business, Malaysia's forecast output for 1984/85 of 100,000 appears small. But

only four years ago Malaysia produced less than half that amount, and a decade ago it scarcely figured in the cocoa world at all. Malaysia has declared its intention of becoming a sizeable cocoa exporter.

But against a background of consumption growing perhaps by 2.5 per cent a year there simply is not enough room for everyone, so aggressively to raise production.

Seeing the producers growing too much cocoa and cutting each other's throats in the process is not likely to encourage the consumers, particularly the chocolate manufacturers, to approach the ICA talks determined to strike a blow for international harmony and the cause of third world commodity exporters.

While the producers at the Geneva negotiations wanted a price range of 105 cents to 135 cents a pound, the other side stuck at 90 cents to 120 cents. And there matters rested when the talks ended last month.

It is unlikely now that negotiations will resume before September, and the outcome might well be to resort to the clause which allows the existing agreement to be extended by another year. The pity is that cocoa, unlike some other raw materials covered by commodity agreements, is exclusively a third world product.

Several big cocoa producers, notably Ghana, desperately need the economic and political breathing space which higher revenues from cocoa could bring. But now the price is going down because of policy mistakes made before many of the present governments were in office.

Michael Prest

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Today British Aerospace Harriers are in service not only with the Royal Navy and the RAF, but with the Indian and Spanish Navies and the United States Marine Corps.

Harriers, of course, saw active service in the South Atlantic, and now advanced Harrier IIs, developed jointly with McDonnell Douglas, are being built for the US Marines and the RAF.

The pioneering of V/STOL jet flight and the continuing development of the Harrier range of aircraft is just one facet of British Aerospace's work. British Aerospace is one of Britain's largest exporters of manufactured goods. Last year over 60% of the company's total sales were to overseas customers.

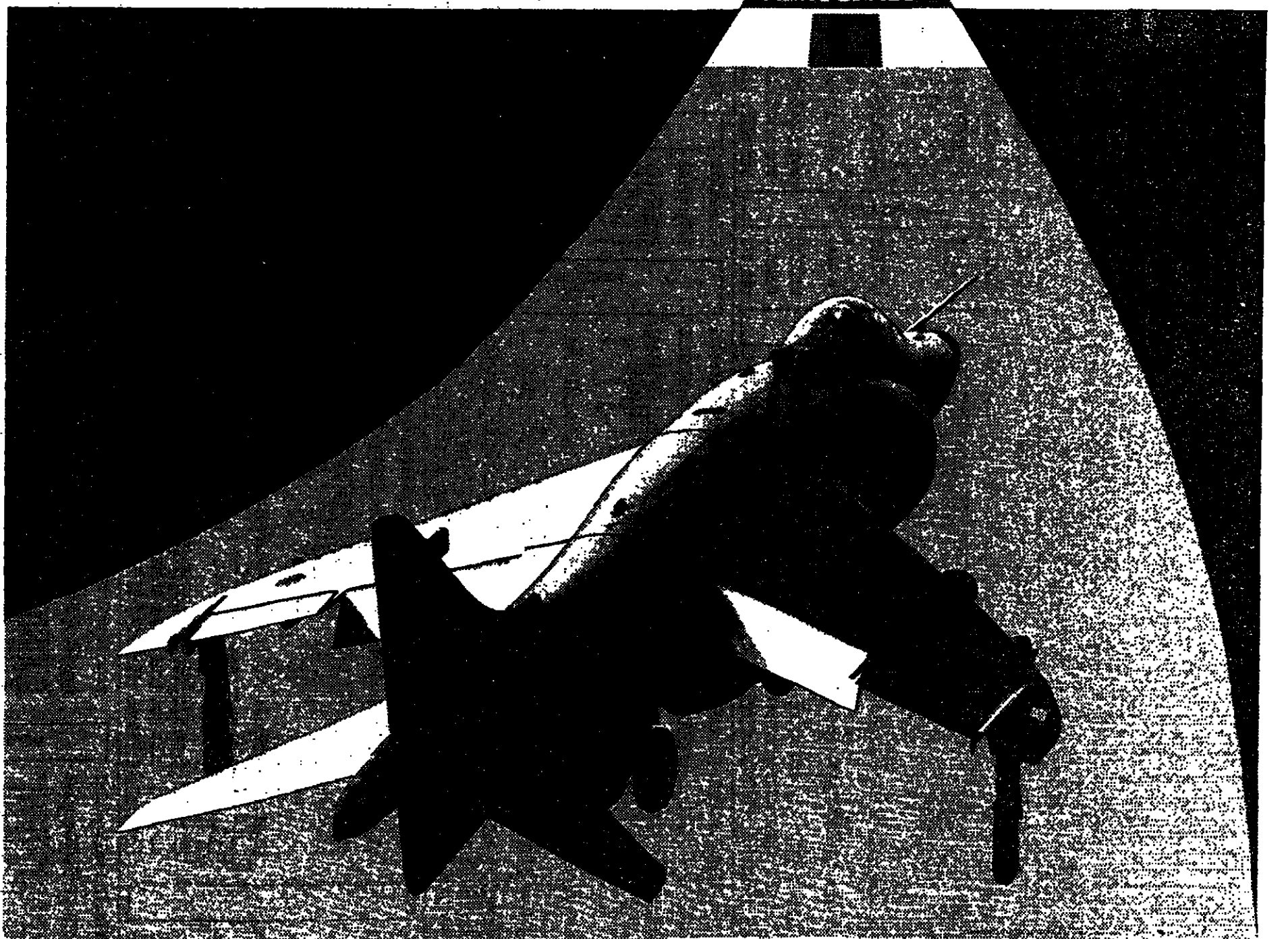
We are involved in designing and building civil and military aircraft with sales to over 40 nations. We design, produce and sell a wide range of guided weapons systems, communications and scientific spacecraft.

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BRITISH AEROSPACE



Tenneco's French takeover in danger

Paris (Agencies) - Tenneco Inc's plan to acquire International Harvester's French farm equipment subsidiary is in growing danger of unravelling. Tenneco's option to acquire the troubled French operation is the initial step in a strategy that includes acquiring Harvester's West German and Danish farm equipment units. Together, Tenneco thinks the three operations would give it a competitive edge in Europe. But now the company has delayed existing options on the West German and Danish units.

An April 1 deadline to close the French transaction has passed. The second deadline is next Monday, but industry sources said meeting that "will be difficult". Negotiations are hampered by the competing needs of multinationals and governments. The problem is a classic example of the difficulties American multinationals seeking efficient, profitable operations confront when they come

up against governments beset by unemployment.

In this case, the French Government has an added dilemma: while it is eager to unload the financial burden that Harvester has become, it also balks at the high political price it would pay under Tenneco's job-cutting rescue strategy.

J. L. Case, The Racine, Wisconsin, farm tractor and construction equipment unit of Tenneco that would merge with Harvester's French unit, says a French operation can be viable only if capacity is cut, along with employment, and with financial concessions from the French Government. The Government, however, faces a budget crunch and wants to avoid any subsidy.

One industry source said the French Government had started considering alternatives to Case's rescue plan, and that another potential buyer had expressed interest. Case and Harvester officials say they are unaware of such a development.

Icahn opens tender offer for Uniroyal

New York (Agencies) - Mr Carl Icahn, began his threatened hostile tender offer for control of Uniroyal at \$18 a share, or a total of \$324 million.

Meanwhile, Uniroyal, the chemical, plastics and rubber products group which rejected Mr Icahn's planned offer last week, is stepping up its effort to find a friendly suitor.

Mr Icahn threatened last week to launch the tender offer if Uniroyal management did not withdraw certain anti-takeover measures which shareholders will vote on at today's annual meeting.

Under the terms of the tender offer, Mr Icahn's recently created Robin Acquisition Corp is seeking to acquire 18 million Uniroyal shares, or about 53 per cent of the company's 33.9 million shares outstanding. The offer expires on May 10. Tendered shares may be withdrawn until May 3. If the offer is completed, Mr Icahn plans to "control and operate the company".

Pickens bid rejected by Unocal

Los Angeles (AP-Dow Jones) - Unocal Corporation, the US oil company, has rejected as "grossly inadequate" a \$3.46 billion (£2.7 billion) tender offer by an investor group headed by Mr T. Boone Pickens Jr.

The Pickens group, which owns 13.6 per cent of Unocal's 173.9 million shares, was attempting to increase its stake to 50.1 per cent of the company. Mr Pickens's 54-per-share tender offer expires on May 3. When the offer was announced in mid-February, Unocal was trading for \$38 a share.

It closed last Friday at \$48.75, up \$1 in heavy trading. The Unocal chairman, Mr Fred Hartley has been waging a vocal campaign against corporate raiders since Mr Pickens announced he was acquiring stock in the Los Angeles-based parent of Union Oil Company. In a two-sentence statement, Unocal said its board met on Saturday and unanimously rejected the Pickens offer, adding that it will "promptly make appropriate recommendations to its shareholders."

50 nations seek accord on uniform lease laws

The first steps towards the adoption by governments of uniform rules for international financial leasing and factoring will be taken this week when experts from more than 50 countries meet in Rome.

They will try to draw up agreed texts, using as a basis two draft conventions produced by Unidroit, the international institute for the unification of private law. Britain's representative will be Professor Roy Goode, of Queen Mary College, London University.

This week the government experts will consider a 15-article draft on leasing, and next week on 11-article draft on factoring. If things go well, a Unidroit official said, it should be possible to hold international

conferences for the formal adoption of conventions in 1988.

Unidroit believes that an international convention on financial leasing should be used as a model for the vast majority of countries which lack comprehensive national legislation. For example, the official noted, Britain's laws concentrate on hire purchase, while the United States is only now working on a federal law on personal property leasing. On the other hand, France and Belgium legislated back in the 1960s.

Unidroit, set up in 1926 as a League of Nations offshoot, survives as an international governmental agency independent of the United Nations.

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124	458	De La Parra	415	56	114
125	458	Hoffman	474	56	114
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200	458	Hoffman	474	56	114

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190	81	Pharis	169	80	4.6
189	80	Pharis	168	79	4.6
208	143	Pharis & Fisher	185	82	8.0
		Style			

TEXTILES

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194	184	Alfred Tiedt	736	6	•	11.4
193	183	Alfred Tiedt	735	7	•	11.4
128	96	Buckman (A)	91	8	•	7.7
127	95	Buckman (A)	90	9	•	7.7
72	76	Blumer & Lewis	78	10	•	7.8
71	75	Blumer & Lewis	77	11	•	7.8
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118	116	Cash	53	37	•	6.9
117	115	Cash	54	38	•	6.9
116	114	Cash	55	39	•	6.9
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11	9	Cash	160	144	•	6.9
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9	7	Cash	162	146	•	6.9
8	6	Cash	163	147	•	6.9
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4	2	Cash	167	151	•	6.9
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0	0	Cash	246	230	•	6.9
0	0	Cash	247	231	•	6.9
0	0	Cash	248	232	•	6.9
0	0	Cash	249	233	•	6.9
0	0	Cash	250	234	•	6.9

258	259	1	Wangman, Muri	15		4.34	24
259	260	1	Wangman, Muri	15		4.34	24
260	261	1	Wangman, Muri	15		4.34	24
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295	296	1	Wangman, Muri	15		4.34	24
296	297	1	Wangman, Muri	15		4.34	24
297	298	1	Wangman, Muri	15		4.34	24
298	299	1	Wangman, Muri	15		4.34	24
299	300	1	Wangman, Muri	15		4.34	24

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

Political advertising booms as Britain wakes up to dream-makers' talents

Political advertising is one of the fastest growing and most controversial sectors of the industry. It has been used to great effect by many organizations wanting to expose their views to a wider audience. Ian Griffiths examines the development of political advertising and looks at how companies could use it in their communications strategy.

The fastest growing sector in Britain's advertising industry is one of the few that escapes the watchdog of the Advertising Standards Authority with its insistence that all material should be legal, decent, honest and truthful.

That may be as well. For the adman's new super-growth sector is political advertising. Expenditure has risen by almost 100 per cent in each of the past three years, notching up £7.4 million of rate card billings in newspapers and magazines last year, not to mention saturation poster campaigns (though, like cigarettes and religion, it is not allowed on television).

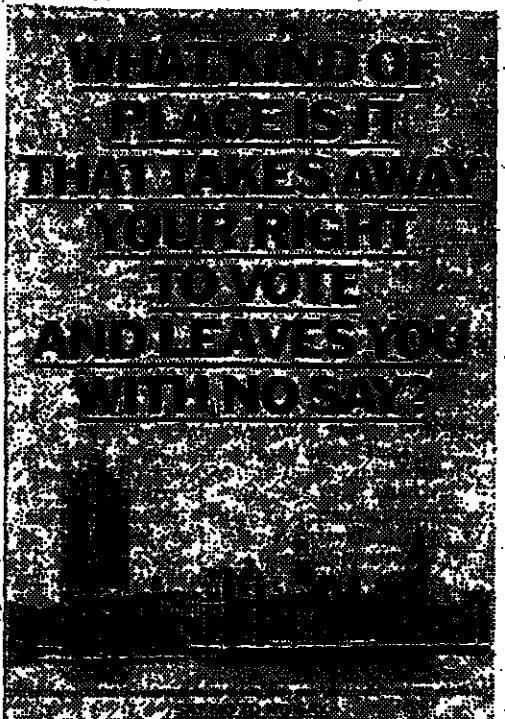
Never short of a clever turn of phrase, the weavers of dreams and creators of images in the industry prefer to call it issue or advocacy advertising. Irrespective of the description, there is no doubt that it is here to stay. So, too, is the controversy which surrounds it.

Issue advertising is not a new concept and some campaigns date back to the turn of the century. What has changed is the sophistication of the advertising and, more recently, the scope of the issues covered.

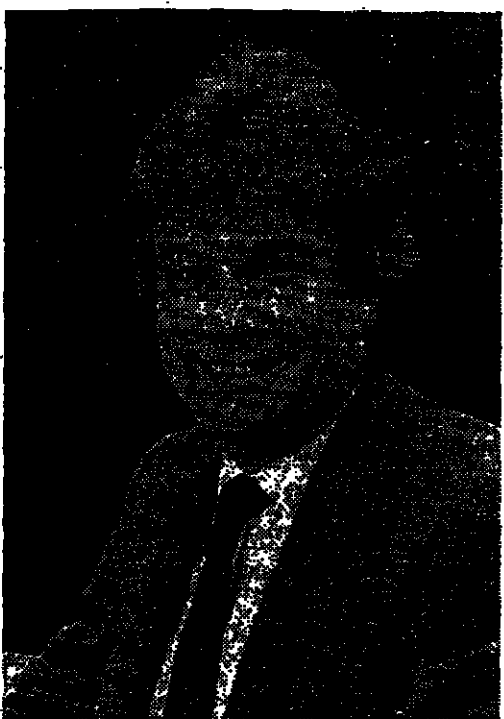
From animal liberation to airline routes, pressure groups have woken up to the fact that advertising provides an effective way of airing a point of view and encouraging public debate on issues that might otherwise be settled quietly in Whitehall.

What surprises some people in the industry is not that political advertising is now with us on a large scale but that it has taken so long to arrive. Companies have long appreciated the benefits of advertising as a means of communication, yet only in the past 18 months has this filtered through to political groups.

Company advertising has, however, been dominated by



Issue campaigning: Boase, Massimi, Pollitt's poster for the GLC of Lowe Howard-Spink Campbell-Ewald.



and Mr Tim Bell

product advertising. There have been campaigns designed to create some kind of corporate image but generally the advertising is linked to selling a clearly identifiable product.

Although the political groups have learnt from companies about the advantages of a well-created and presented campaign, companies still have a lot to learn about issue advertising. In the early post-war years, Tate & Lyle's Mr Cube was a notable pioneer. The banks' more recent campaign against nationalization may well have alerted public opinion.

Except for such emergencies, however, the tangible benefits of issue advertising might not be as immediately obvious as a 25 per cent increase in sales. Yet there are indications that there is a more important place for it in a corporate strategy.

During the miners' strike the National Coal Board conducted an extensive advertising campaign to present its case, not just to the strikers, but to the watching public. Although the advertising cannot be credited with the ultimate outcome it must have contributed.

Two clearly identified advertisements were followed immediately by decisive events in

the strike. The first, directed at Nacods members, appeared the day before that union's decision not to escalate its involvement and the second, informing miners that by their rules the strike was over, appeared on the day the dispute ended.

The link may have been fortuitous but it is there. Certainly Mr Tim Bell, chief executive of the advertising agency Lowe Howard-Spink Campbell-Ewald and the man who runs the NCB account, would not exaggerate the significance of the advertisements, but it is an indication that companies can use advertising to communicate their arguments quite effectively.

The point has been lost to some extent on many companies. Mr Bell, who also still heads the Tory party account which is held by Saatchi & Saatchi (although he left the agency early this year) and was responsible for a breakthrough in party political advertising with the "Labour isn't working" campaign in 1978, said: "British industry has been very slow to accept modern communication techniques."

Advertising aimed at shareholders has become a growing feature of takeover battles but

whether it will be extended to industrial disputes or wider issues remains to be seen. It might be difficult for a company to use costly advertising campaigns to combat a strike over pay with any justification, but there are opportunities for businesses to use advertising more extensively as a forum for debate on other matters which affect their livelihood.

The Prudential recently dipped a tentative toe in the water over what it saw as the threat of changes in pension taxation.

In the US, W. R. Grace, the chemicals, natural resources and consumer services group, has demonstrated just how much scope there is for a more broadly-based campaign. It has run TV commercials and press advertisements attacking the massive Federal deficits, and the general state of the American economy.

One advertisement has a picture of the Stars and Stripes-clad Uncle Sam nursing a baby with the slogan: "She's got her mother's eyes, her father's nose and her uncle's deficit." The copy points out that the levels of national debt are equivalent to each baby born in the US in 1985 having a \$50,000 debt strapped to its back.

The campaign is not a direct attack on President Reagan, although it might be interpreted as such. Rather it is a statement of the company's own views on the economy and in which direction it should be going for the greater good of all.

This recognition of a wider responsibility than that to the company's shareholders and employees is one which Britain has been slow to follow.

Given, for instance, the unrest among some British companies about changes in National Insurance contributions, there might be a case for issue advertising to bring the debate more into the open and to explain more clearly the implications. It might not affect the outcome but it would stimulate informed discussion.

It is the desire to inform which underpins the most controversial issue advertising campaign, now being waged by the GLC against its abolition.

Opponents of the campaign argue that it is a waste of ratepayers' money and that it is being run on party political grounds. The research carried out by Boase, Massimi, Pollitt, the agency which masterminded the campaign, suggests otherwise.

Its surveys indicate that the campaign is not as violently or widely opposed by ratepayers as some critics maintain and more importantly, that it has made Londoners aware of the issues at stake. Before the campaign began, 45 per cent of Londoners were unaware of the plans to abolish the GLC. Six months later that figure was down to 21 per cent.

The question of funding for all issue campaigns will necessarily be a source of debate. Cost is a big limitation on the amount of advertising and the benefits are therefore more readily available to those with more cash.

It is not, however, the only constraint. For although political advertising does not come under the jurisdiction of the Advertising Standards Authority, those behind the issue campaigns are agreed that there is a limit to the number of people who can be fooled.

In the final analysis it is the quality of the argument which will be the most convincing factor although the artistic impression will always squeeze a few extra, and perhaps crucial marks out of the judges.

Sharp rise in profits fails to lift UK from foot of league

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The sharp improvement in profitability over the past two years has failed to lift Britain from the bottom of the profits league table, according to the forecaster, DRI Europe.

In an assessment published today, DRI Europe has examined long-term trends in profitability in the leaders economies.

It concludes that, over the period 1955-1982, "Britain's manufacturing profitability as measured by return on capital not only fell to the lowest of the major economies but also fell at the fastest rate."

Since then, there has been a dramatic improvement in Britain, with corporate profitability rising by 22-23 per cent per annum. However, even this improvement has been insufficient to lift profitability levels to those of other countries, DRI Europe says.

The danger remains that corporate capital will be attracted abroad where the levels of profitability are still higher.

Declining profitability in manufacturing has been a feature of most industrialized countries over the past 30 years. In the 1955-1982 period, for which detailed figures are available, the rate of return in manufacturing in Britain fell from 17 per cent to 5 per cent.

Rates of return in the United States dropped from 22 per cent to about 11 per cent. In Japan, profitability reached a peak in the mid-1960s, with 40 per cent rates of return, before dropping to about 22 per cent. In Germany, there was a similar 1960s' peak, this time of 26 per cent, before a fall to 12 per cent in 1982.

DRI Europe's latest economic forecast predicts growth of 3 per cent this year for Britain, falling to 2.4 per cent next year. Inflation is expected to average 5.9 per cent this year, shading down to 5.6 per cent next.

Slower US growth and a bigger balance of payments deficit are also predicted. The US economy is forecast to grow at 3.3 per cent this year and 2.7 per cent in 1986 with the trade gap widening from \$96.7 billion to \$132.2 billion.

In general, the forecasters predict slower growth and a modest uptick in inflation for the major economies next year.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **PLANET GROUP:** Planet SA, Planet's Luxembourg subsidiary, is to sell its principal assets for cash to Rechart AG. Planet SA currently manufactures a range of caravan windows and doors for sale throughout Europe. The consideration is payable as to 50 million Luxembourg francs (£650,000) for its freehold land and buildings and 10 million francs (£130,000) for its plant, machinery and office equipment. In addition, Planet SA will receive an amount for stocks and work in progress. Planet estimates that the value of stocks and work in progress will be in the region of 40 million francs (£525,000).

● **FEDERATED HOUSING:** The chairman Mr Peter Meyer said at the annual meeting that it is still too early to forecast the results for the full year, but sales have progressed well in the first quarter. First-half turnover is likely to be unrepresentative for the year as a whole because of the number of schemes with legal completion planned for the second half. However, the full-year turnover should show a modest increase and the company expects to achieve a useful increase in gross operating profits.

● **COSALT:** To acquire the fixed assets, essential stock and goodwill of other businesses at present operating within the mechanical handling division of Wheway Watson Holdings. Subject to final stock figure, the consideration will be in the region of £250,000 representing the book value of the assets.

● **ANGLO NORDIC HOLDINGS:** Anglo Nordic Properties has bought the freehold of the site at Cowley Mill Road, Uxbridge, occupied by Auto-Diesel's Braboy, another wholly owned offshoot of Anglo Nordic Holdings. The price of £1.025 million has been paid in cash.

● **ARGYLL GROUP:** Mr J G Gulliver has made arrangements to transfer, by way of gift, to a family trust, 500,000 Argyl Group ordinary shares. Holding will in future be reported as a non-beneficial interest of Mr J G Gulliver.

● **HARTOG ENERGY:** final two cents making five cents per share. Net operating profit \$A12.16 million - about £6.5 million - (£A10.12 million) for 1984. The result, in line with directors' forecast, was achieved on turnover of \$A18.63 million (£A15.27 million).

● **TRANSCONTINENTAL SERVICES:** has agreed to form an investor group to acquire all of the outstanding shares of Seligman and Latz, a New York Exchange listed specialty retailer of beauty services and fine jewellery.

● **GOODE DURRANT/INFINTAC:** Infintac announces that it has received acceptances of a total of 61,159 ordinary shares (0.25 per cent of Goode Durrant and Murray). As indicated in the offer document, the offer is not being extended.

● **CENTREWAY TRUST:** Results for 1984, compared with previous nine months. No div. (10.75p). Figs. in £000. Turnover 2,568 (19,630). Pre-tax loss 133 (128 profit) after exceptional debit 156 (nil).

● **BROOKE TOOL ENGINEERING:** and its offshoot, Howman Tap and Die. The total consideration was £215,000.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the One Hundred and I (101st) Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5NQ, on Wednesday 24th April, 1985, at 10.30 am to transact the Ordinary business of the Society.

Additionally, the following Resolutions will be proposed as a Special Resolution in terms of Section 11 of the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society's Act 1979:—

"That Regulation 34 of the Regulations of the Society be altered by the deletion of the word 'twelve' and the substitution thereof of the word 'fifteen'."

The effect of the foregoing Resolution is to be to increase the maximum number of Directors from twelve to fifteen.

By Order of the Directors
W PROUDFOOT
Chief General Manager and Secretary
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ
13th March, 1985



The World of Vita

Flexible foams A wealth of experience in foam production worldwide

Fibres Europe's largest processors of man-made fibre fillings

Fabrics Trend-setters in fabric technology and design

Polymers Innovators in compounds, mouldings, coatings and adhesives through advanced technology

Finished products Worldwide range of mattresses, duvets, pillows, household textiles, bunk beds and related products

In 1984: ● Profit - record level for second successive year - up 60% over last two years

● Dividend up 16%
● Investment of £11m in acquisitions and new assets.

Future: ● The Board's policy of Innovation Investment and Growth will be vigorously pursued.

Group results for year to 31st December.

£'000	1984	1983
Turnover	138,391	109,877
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation:	11,851	10,576
United Kingdom	4,430	4,085
Europe	1,513	947
International	5,908	5,544
Earnings per share	24.3p	22.0p
Dividend per share	6.2p	5.36p
Assets per share	169p	149p

Covers of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Company Secretary, BRITISH VITA PLC, MIDDLETON, MANCHESTER M24 2DB.

A disappointing year but some encouraging features

1984 Result

The final outcome for the year was a much reduced pre-tax profit of £11.2m, down from £98.4m in 1983, with a loss in the USA of £76.3m and profits of £87.5m elsewhere in the world.

Net Worth

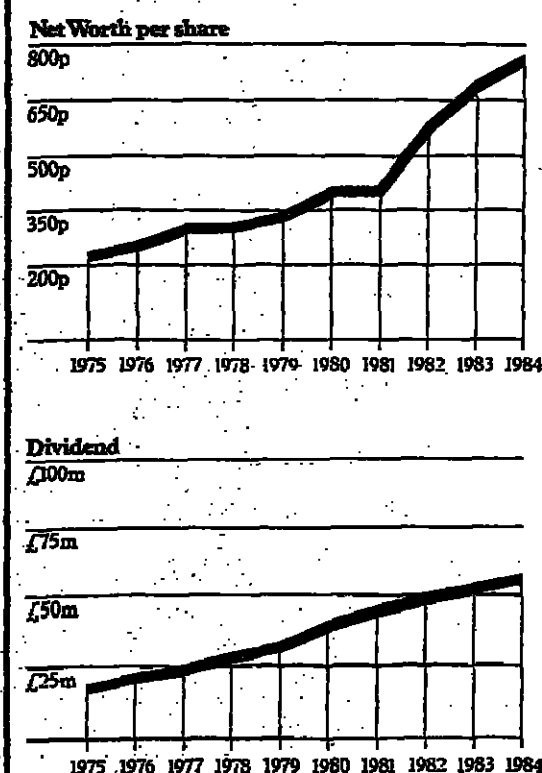
Notwithstanding the Group's after tax loss, there were balance sheet gains which increased the net worth by £178m to over £1.8 billion, including the value of the existing business of Royal Life, and the year-end solvency margin was 74%.

Dividend

One of our prime objectives is to pursue a progressive dividend policy and, despite the operating result for the year, we are adhering to this by recommending that the final dividend should be 15.0p per share, making a total for the year of 23.75p, an increase over the previous year of 4.2%.

Life Operations

Royal Life continued to develop well and increased its profit contribution by over 18% to £21.5m. The balance



sheet value of existing life business went up from £225m to £245m and the directors believe the company's present value as a going concern is at least £450m.

Prospects

The return to profitable trading in the United States remains an overriding priority. To this end we embarked upon a fresh series of measures there, both short and long term, to improve the results. Our policy of applying substantial price increases in most commercial lines business gathered momentum in 1984 without significant loss of worthwhile business, underlining the meaningful turnaround in the market that has taken place. Similar price increases are being applied successfully in the current year.

Royal Insurance

Please send me a copy of the Report & Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1984.

Name _____

Address _____

To: The Secretary, Royal Insurance plc Group
Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.



Royal Insurance

Royal Insurance plc, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.

Edited by Matthew May

COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

By Richard Sarson

In many large companies, executives are beginning to demand some form of computer on their desk to do their "personal" computing and word-processing, and to pass information to and from the large central machines.

The snag is that to do this for perhaps a thousand staff with standard personal computers and their software, at £4,000 each, would cost £4 million, a bit steep for even the richest and most ambitious corporations, and is wasteful, because most users only need to compute for under half an hour a day.

Linking "dumb terminals" to the central mainframes is not the answer either, because then the staff do not get the advantage of today's friendly micro-software. Rank Xerox, faced with this dilemma, has come up with a midway solution to bring the cost per desk below £1,000.

This has been done by linking "dumb terminals" (keyboard and screen, costing under £500) to central "modular micros", which are racks of micro-pro-

Playing dumb can save you money

cessor boards behaving like all the most commonly used personal computers.

When someone in a branch office wants to do a computing job, he specifies on his terminal what service he wants to use, whether it is financial planning or writing a letter, and he is allocated one of these modular micros and up to 10 megabytes of disk for up to an hour, after which he is thrown off.

He thinks he is using Wordstar or Supercalc on an IBM PC on his desk. If he is in Glasgow, his "micro" is in fact 400 miles away in Uxbridge.

Stephen Shiu, who devised the system, believes that only 100 to 150 of these central

"micros" will service the 1,000 executives out in their offices around the country. This way, the cost of the dumb terminal plus a share of the modular micro is under £1,000.

There will be no telephone costs, because the links will use the "wide area network" already in place for the mainframe computers.

Mr Shiu points out that he will only have to pay one licence fee for each type of software, rather than several hundred. It will also be easier to maintain, the modular processors and disk drives centrally, rather than scattered around the country. Upgrading the system with new processors will also be easier centrally.

He is surprised that other large British companies have not had the same idea, as all of them have been wrestling with the problem of how to absorb the all-pervasive micro into a sensible computing strategy for several years. He believes that his "virtual micro" concept, as he calls it, will give the branch offices both quick access to the big files of information on the mainframes, and the chance to do their own thing.

The Scottish performance in the electronics sector was not significant, the researchers claimed, and the number of people employed in the high technology area was only about 10 per cent of the manufacturing labour force, 43,000, and that had been bettered elsewhere.

The most damaging criticism was comparing Scotland with a third world country. The Scottish Development Agency retorted that the report was ill-informed and misleading and that Scotland was fast emerging as Europe's leading contender in the stakes for inward investment.

According to the SDA, "There has been a new wave of investment by the world's leading high-technology companies and in the last four years alone Locust in Scotland (the programme devised to attract investment to Scotland) has attracted £1.2 billion to establish Scotland as one of the most significant electronic centres in Europe, if not the world."

Nearly £1.8 billion a year is generated by the electronics sector and the

sed by a faster, smaller £1,500 computer.

From A.W. Woolard, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells: I was intrigued to read that Chris Curry, co-founder of Acorn Computers, has traded in his company Jaguar for a Metro in the interests of his company's survival. Would it not have been a more splendid gesture for him to have accepted a Sinclair C3? I believe there are fewer steep gradients around Cambridge than on Acorn's balance sheet.

There is unfortunately no shortcut to acquiring knowledge. Buying a couple of computer magazines such as *Personal Computer World* can help in the early months after a purchase, but should be soon discontinued as there is a harmful effect on one's blood pressure to discover that your £3,000 system has been super-

What next for Scotland?

Scotland has been accused of becoming a microchip colony whose labour force is exploited by foreign manufacturers, the principal perpetrators being the American multinationals. The accusations which were levelled at a Scottish industry proud of its performance in electronics were all the more wounding since they came from a Scottish research group.

Virtually within a mile of the Scottish Development Agency's offices in Haymarket, Edinburgh, where most of the plans for inward investment in Scotland have been formulated, a group of researchers from the Scottish Education and Action for Development was publishing the results of its study. The study, partly funded by an EEC grant, was scathing about the performance of the Scottish electronics sector and the strategy of luring multinationals to Scotland.

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international companies provide an infrastructure on which to build indigenous manufacturing, claimed the SDA.

Silicon Glen - the name given to the country's electronics sector emulating the famous Silicon Valley in California - has probably the biggest concentration of electronic companies outside the US and Japan.

"Silicon Glen," says the SDA, "is regarded by experts as innovative, flourishing and dynamic and they recognize Scotland as a worldwide centre of leading edge technology."

The researchers at SEAD disagreed. Scotland was fast becoming a microchip colony and the growth of multinational inward investment was a monument to that fear.

Some of SEAD's criticism was brutal. Showing how employment had failed to

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

rise significantly, it said that in the 1940s 3,000 worked in Scotland's electronics industry. In the decade that followed IBM, Burroughs and NCR were attracted to Scotland and the employment in the sector rose to 7,500. National Semiconductors and Motorola were to join the Scots in the 1960s and employment rose to an all time high of 49,000 by 1970. Cutbacks and automation were to reduce that level to the current 43,000 total.

But SEAD claimed that the dependence on foreign manufacturers for jobs is unacceptable. Of the 300 companies in the electronics sector, 173 are Scottish-owned, employing 5,700 people. The 37 American companies in Scotland employ three times that number.

Can robotics and artificial intelligence be child's play? Yes, with the help of a programming language called Logo, which is sweeping through British and French schools. Though primarily used to teach programming skills to children and to the US armed forces at the Pentagon - Logo is being enhanced to cover fifth generation applications.

Already, versions are available to control small robots and produce animated graphics, and artificial intelligence and interactive videodisc control are waiting in the wings.

Developed by Seymour Papert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the 1960s, Logo has built-in full colour graphics and uses far fewer instructions to achieve the same result than a language such as Basic; until now the most popular teaching tool. A child learns to program in Logo by moving a "turtle" cursor around the screen, and teaching the computer to remember how to draw the shapes. As more complex patterns build up, so the child unwittingly creates programs from smaller routines, and is then able to apply the concept to non-graphics based problems.

Richard Fothergill, Director of the government Microelectronics Education Programme, said: "It's very exciting - particularly to hear the way children talk about it. They write procedures almost inadvertently, so that programming comes naturally."

Predicting that eventually all primary and most secondary schools will use Logo, Mr Fothergill estimates the current total to be "3,000 to 4,000".

Despite MEP's enthusiasm, British schools are unlikely to get any government help with purchasing, unlike their French counterparts. Under the £185.2 million scheme launched by the Prime Minister, Laurent Fabius, French state schools are set to receive about 40,000 copies of Logo. This, when added to an existing 15,000 makes France easily the largest Logo user in Europe.

Despite innovative moves such as that of Tandy and ACT, the retail business market has proved a tough one to crack - even for big American computer chains that have achieved

Continued on page 29

Business micro breaks a barrier

By Geoff Wheelwright

The business microcomputer industry reached some form of watershed last week with the release of Tandy's IBM-compatible 1000 computer. Not only is the £1,099 Tandy machine the cheapest single disc-drive true compatible on the market, it will be one of the few machines of its kind to be sold principally through retail stores.

The UK launch of the 1000 and Tandy's recent formation of a joint distribution company - at Computerworld - with applied computer techniques to sell Tandy's machines and ACT's Apriort range indicate a bold, if difficult, approach to the business computer market.

Both Tandy and ACT are business computer moves assume that UK business customers will buy equipment from the high street at Computerworld showrooms and that they will be highly concerned about price.

The 1000's price means that a dual disc-drive IBM-compatible business system can be put together for less than £1,500 (excluding VAT) - about two-thirds the cost of an IBM-compatible system. Though the home-computer market is driven by price wars, it's an open question as to whether the business market is "price-sensitive" enough for this to matter much. Corporate customers may be more concerned about the risk of not buying IBM than they are about saving a few hundred pounds on each PC they buy.

The other complicating factor in the 1000's success is the schizophrenic nature of the joint-venture at Computerworld company. It's a sort of corporate SDP - an alliance of two groups with different problems which seek a common route to success.

A difference in the kind of customers

This was graphically demonstrated in the setting-up of the nationwide chain, when Tandy and ACT had to agree on which stores to close down in the cases where they were competing with one another. In some towns, for example, an existing ACT dealer may have been selling more equipment than the local Tandy computer shop. In other areas, the reverse was the case.

Tandy says it made the joint distribution deal with ACT because its high street shops didn't have the room or the time to sell business computer systems properly. Sales staff attempting to sell 4000 business computer systems would be interrupted by customers needing to find a £1.99 jack plug.

Despite innovative moves such as that of Tandy and ACT, the retail business market has proved a tough one to crack - even for big American computer chains that have achieved

Continued on page 29

How robots became child's play

By Maggie McLening

Can robotics and artificial intelligence be child's play? Yes, with the help of a programming language called Logo, which is sweeping through British and French schools. Though primarily used to teach programming skills to children and to the US armed forces at the Pentagon - Logo is being enhanced to cover fifth generation applications.

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When I buy software who should I consider first?

Yes. You.

You run your job, not your computer. That's why you should choose a software package that makes your computer work hard but does it in a way that's not hard work for you.

Good sense? We think so. Taking the trouble to understand your needs has led Lotus to produce software programs that realise the potential of the hardware in ways that even the hardware designers hadn't thought possible. In turn this emphasis on innovation coupled with continuous product development, has helped Lotus become the world's biggest microcomputer software company.

You can see the success of our approach in our products. Lotus 1-2-3™ has set an industry standard

with the definitive spreadsheet, which is probably the most useful software business tool available. Not surprisingly 1-2-3 is the best selling business software package in the UK and in America, where it has been No. 1 for the last two years.

Lotus Symphony™ goes even further in meeting your needs with a package that allows you to run your entire office on one program. It is also designed to grow with you and, as your system develops, allow one computer to talk to another.

But our commitment to understanding your requirements goes beyond our products into training and service back-up. There are 40 Authorised Training Centres throughout the country staffed by people skilled at turning learners into users.

We also have a Hotline number which you can call for any further help or advice.

Before you think about hardware, think about software. And before you think about software, think about yourself. We did.

If you'd like to see what we're talking about, just ring 01-200 0200. We'll send you a brochure and put you in touch with your nearest Lotus Software Centre.

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SOFTWARE

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IBM PC COMPLETE WITH 2 x 360K DISK DRIVES, MONOCHROME DISPLAY, PRINTER ADAPTOR, DOS 2.1, ETC. EX. VAT.

£1500

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Without any question, you need to send for this unique report.

The effective and profitable handling of information is crucial to all management and organisations. Which is why the emergence of a revolutionary computer operating system is of incalculable importance to you.

The name, if you haven't heard, is UNIX.

And the billion dollar question is will it, or won't it, rule the multi-

user computer world of the future? This exclusive report, based on unique information, is also an excellent handbook for non-technical management.

It predicts the course of UNIX over the next four, momentous years.

You can't afford to be wrong about UNIX. You can't afford to miss the UNIX Report.

Please send me a copy of The UNIX Report. I enclose a cheque for £95, or debit my Name _____
Company/Organisation _____
Position _____
Address _____

UNIX
YES OR NO?

Post to: The UNIX Report, Dapline, 14 Eborac Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8JE. Tel: 01-579 6958

سكرا من الراس

COMPUTER HORIZONS/2

Business
micro
breaks a
barrier

Codename ENIGMA

Take off on the spy trail next week

- Fly to South America, Japan and the US with British Airways.
- Win a British Telecom Viscount phone.

Starting on Tuesday, April 23, *The Times* throws down a new challenge for its readers. In a unique competition, Codename ENIGMA presents a six-week series of code-breaking problems demanding a solution.

Next Tuesday, in Computer Horizons, there will be a full briefing on the first ENIGMA case. We will provide the first clue needed for you to crack the ENIGMA code.

In the Information Section on the back page of *The Times* on the following Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, we shall provide all the other clues you need. By Sunday we expect most of you will have contacted us with the solution. You may not need a micro computer to provide the solution - but it could help.

Five further ENIGMA cases will be presented in the succeeding weeks, which we will invite you to solve. As you will have guessed, *The Times* does not wish your efforts to go unrewarded. We have arranged in conjunction with British Airways and British Telecom to offer the following prizes:

- Two intercontinental British Airways Super Club class flights to exciting destinations each week, and £1,000 in cash to give you a fascinating holiday.



PLUS

Twenty-five British Telecom Viscount push-button phones each week.

Starting Tuesday April 23 CODENAME ENIGMA - a challenge with exciting rewards.

Events

London Festival of Computing '85, Central Hall, Westminster, 16-20 (01-240 8206).

Computer Assisted Learning Exhibition, East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham, April 11-12.

Northern Computer Show (trade), 11a Vue, Manchester, April 16-18.

Computer Aided Production Management, Wembley Conference Centre, April 30-May 2 (01-39411).

Apple 85, Novatel Complex, Hammersmith, London, May 9-11 (061-480 7853).

Micro City 85 (trade), Bristol Exhibition Complex, May 14-16, (04427 73291).

Business Computer Show, Earls Court, London, June 4-6 (01-643 8040).

Commodore Computer Show, Novatel Complex, Hammersmith, London, June 7-9, (01-630 6071).

Overseas events

Informatic, Barcelona, Spain, today until April 20th.



Teacher Alex Whittaker, holding Trekker, and some of his robot-building pupils

Happy tale of Trekker the robot turtle

By Nigel Clark

Behind the robot being featured in the ITV computer programme *The Micro at Work* lies a story of admirable school enterprise. Trekker, a small "turtle" robot, was designed by pupils of a north Wales comprehensive school and they are cooperating with a local company to sell it to other schools.

They might have been tempted to try to make it themselves but experience with a previous product showed it was better to concentrate on research and development.

Turtles have long been popular with schools as aids in the teaching of mathematics and programming. It has been found that children can grasp abstract ideas far more quickly if they have something physical to which they can relate. The turtles are mostly controlled by

a micro and Trekker runs off a BBC Model B via a cable.

The fourth and fifth year pupils at St Richard Gwyn High School, Flint, Clwyd, have been taking serious interest in robotics for only 18 months but their progress has been rapid.

Three factors are responsible for this. The local education authority in Clwyd is dedicated to the idea of education in the new technologies, the school has a well-equipped laboratory through the Government's Technical and Vocational Educational Initiative, and it has an enthusiastic director of micro-technology, Alex Whittaker.

"I had always wanted to do something like this but never had the facilities. Now I have no excuses", said Mr Whittaker.

The director used his experience of designing a turtle at a previous school as the basis for a tight specification for a project

for the pupils. At the same time, he taught them the techniques of printing and etching circuit boards and how to populate them with the components - which were needed to build the electronics.

Though all this was done during lunch and after school, the children were soon learning. Mr Whittaker said: "Mark 1 was our first attempt and this quickly became Mark 2, which was sold to other schools."

They named it Gwynbach and now every secondary school in Clwyd has one. There has even been an inquiry from Australia.

All the machines were being made in school but as demand increased, they were finding it taking up more and more of their time, and defeating the educational purpose of learning robotics.

A local company was ap-

proached, Clwyd Technics of Mold, which was already involved in the educational market, now looks after production.

At the same time Trekker was being developed and this was also being produced in conjunction with Clwyd Technics. A prototype has been running for more than a year and this experience is being used as the basis for the documentation and the 30 programs which will be included in the Trekker package.

It is expected to be launched soon for £125.

A company, Gwyntech, has been set up to look after the school's dealings with outside businesses such as Clwyd Technics with the school concentrating on R and D and commercial benefits being developed by the business partner.

British lead - but only as players

software manager, Gail Wellington. "Any software we put out on disc," she says, "is much less popular in the UK because there are far fewer disc drives. Twenty to 25 per cent of Commodore computer owners also have a disc drive, which is considerably below that of the rest of the world."

The Commodore figure is a useful guideline because anyone with one of its micros must also buy a compatible disc drive from Commodore, whereas sales of drives for other machines will be spread across several suppliers. Obviously, the lack of a disc drive

does not mean that as a computer owner you are merely a games player, but it is difficult to base your system around tape if you intend to do any serious programming, word processing or data storage, such as is involved in running a small business.

The UK's most popular computer, the Sinclair Spectrum, had been on the market about a year before the first proper attempts at disc drives (as opposed to microdrives) started to appear, and it is only after two years or so, that the Spectrum owner has a choice of a handful of good disc drive systems.

Whether the Spectrum is more than merely a games machine is a question with no absolute answer, but no one has yet made a million producing disc drives for it. Nor has Sir Clive's microdrive fixation made any impression on the American market.

"Disc adventures do sell well," Gail says, "but will never compete with tape-based software in the UK. That's partly because people in the UK don't buy disc drives."

Level 9 is the leading British software house for adventures, and its Pete Austin confirmed the low disc-to-tape ratio of sales.

"We have been doing disc versions of our adventures for only a couple of months, but so far we've sold about one on disc for every 20 on tape. We don't have any plans to do any large scale adventures that are only available on disc mainly because the market isn't there."

Pete Austin's remarks reflect Gail Wellington's comment that in Britain we are producing some of the best tape-based software, simply because we have to. But there is a natural limit to what you can do, and our disinclination to buy disc drives prevents software houses such as Level 9 from going to town and producing even better software. It also prevents us, the punters, from enjoying it.

Even the mighty IBM slips as US suffers a downturn

By Kevan Pearson

The US computer industry suffered a severe downturn in profits and sales in one of the worst starts to a year so far this decade.

Even the mighty IBM was humbled by negligible sales growth and a sharp slide in profits when it reported its first quarter results last week. The company's turnover rose by only 1.8 per cent to \$9.76 billion compared with a year earlier. And post-tax profit slipped by 17.83 per cent to \$986 million, only the second time this decade that the company has not shown a quarter on quarter increase in profits.

IBM's chief executive officer, John Akers, who took over the day-to-day running of the company in January, blamed the bad results on customers delaying orders while they evaluate the new high end computer systems and storage products announced in February. He said IBM expects to return to a healthy growth position in the second half of the year.

The company's weak performance this year compares with net profit in the first quarter of 1984 rising by more than 23 per cent compared with the previous year.

IBM was only one of the companies to suffer in the first three months of 1985 and compared to some it did not perform too badly. Computerworld, the world's largest supplier of computer-aided design systems fared worst. Last week the company announced that 14 per cent of its workforce worldwide

- nearly 1,000 people - have been laid off.

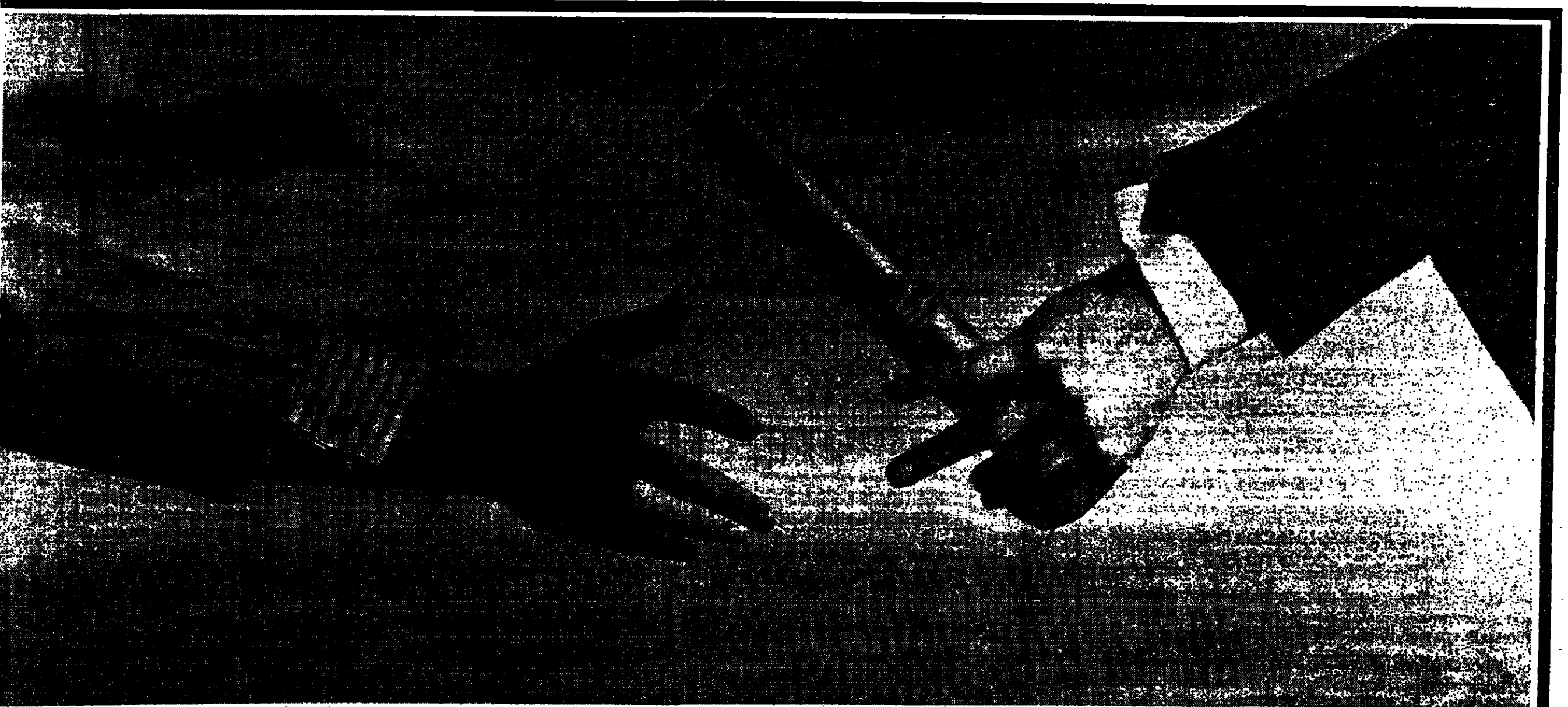
Earlier this year the company said it expected a sharp downturn in sales and an overall loss on operations in the current quarter. For the whole of 1984 the company reported profits up by more than 30 per cent.

Wang Laboratories, the top office-automation supplier, also said it would report much lower profit this year, compared with 1984. This will be the first significant hiccup in an otherwise exemplary growth record. The company expects sales to rise by 10 per cent compared with last year, but profits will fall by 30 to 40 per cent. For most of this decade the company has reported sales and profit growth of more than 35 per cent a year.

Control Data, which makes large computer systems and peripherals, is another company that has laid workers off and is restructuring its business. Data General, a leading mini-computer manufacturer, also expects relatively poor results this quarter, in common with other mini computer manufacturers.

The strength of the dollar has played a major role in the problems affecting the computer industry. IBM said its turnover would have risen by nine per cent if currency rates had remained as they were at the start of 1984, and profits would have fallen by only seven per cent.

The rush of lower forecasts sent high tech shares plummeting on the New York stock market. IBM's shares last week were \$7 below the high of 1984.



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Answer: I presume that you are being offered a maintenance contract to go with the system. It is worth arranging for the contract to be valid for at least two years. Sooner or later you will want to change to an updated system and it is reasonable to find out how your working files can be moved to systems using mainstream hardware. It is also worth checking to see if expensive printers are easily moved to most common machines. Some of the discontinued lines on offer use uncommon linkages to printers which means that when the machine is scrapped the printer will go with it.

It is probable that the system offered to you uses an operating system which is not flourishing vigorously so the new software being marketed will be beyond your reach. If you can cope with what is on offer now then this restriction may not matter too much.

Q. Why is the use of integrated software, such as the Lotus Symphony product, not a

recommended practice? I am attracted to the benefits of these all-in-one ideas.

A. Packages of versatile software, such as Framework from Ashton-Tate and Symphony from Lotus, can be very useful. The benefits they offer is that an executive can work through most aspects of a presentation without changing the software. So the calculations, the file data, the graphs and the words needed in the presentation can all be handled in a single session of work with the personal computer.

However, these pieces of software are greedy on storage. Both of the ones I have listed are happier with 320K of bytes of main store than with anything less. It is also true that a Jack-of-all-trades product is not

usually especially able at any single task. So the spreadsheet functions may be less comprehensive than in a package tuned to spreadsheet users.

Q. Computer experts say that "truly distributed" computer systems are still a long way off. I am trying to put a stop to paralysis when the "mainframe" falls over. What are the problems?

A. If your aim is to spread the computer power about to provide local reliability for handling local transactions then you should have little difficulty. However, for a large organization there are problems.

The snag arises in piecing together a complete picture of the whole collection of systems. There will be a local view of what is going on, but turning a rag-bag of local views into a complete panorama is a tricky task. A consortium of business interests does not operate like a

single business and a federated group of computers is harder to assess than a set of computers that is firmly linked to a centre of management.

The computer experts are right, but it should not stop you getting most of the reliability that you need.

Q. There are much practical evidence that field staff equipped with lightweight computers are more productive?

A. There are many interesting opportunities being taken via the "lap-held" portables. One user combines radio paging contact with urgent data transmission via the telephone to ensure that correct data is always to hand for its field staff. The advantage this gives is that the cheapness of radio paging enables the service to be cost effective over long periods.

At the same time during peak periods vital data can be reliably stored by staff much more quickly than by verbal phone messages. However, the scheme still relies on the general software usefulness supplied with the portables. If the staff had little use for the machine except for key data capture then it would probably not be much more than a fiddle to help out at busy times.

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The high cost of starting up small

By Phillip Oppenheim

One of the present bar-room wisdoms of the computer world is that soon there will be a big shake-out, sending many manufacturers to the wall.

People who predict this make two main points - the huge power of IBM and its supposed dominance of the business microcomputer market and that all new industries go through a phase of fast growth before the smaller suppliers are squeezed out. The motor industry in the 1920s is often given as a parallel.

Some observers, however, disagree with this. The main reason is that the micro industry is like no other. So-called microcomputer manufacturers are not manufacturers at all, but assemblers of bought-in components.

Whereas most car manufacturers make, and make, nearly all their main components, very few computer manufacturers do the same. Processors, RAM chips, disc drives, screens and keyboards are almost invariably bought in. Some of the most successful suppliers do not even assemble parts themselves. Sinclair, for example, sub-contracts all its assembly, mainly to Timex and Thorn-EMI.

In addition, an increasing proportion of software now runs on industry standard lines, so do operating systems, so a large number of computer assemblers make virtually identical systems from components supplied by a much smaller number of manufacturers of chips, disc drives, VDUs and other items.

Standard machines dip into software pool

Even the mighty traditional computer-makers, such as IBM, Hewlett Packard, Digital and NCR, who have the resources to design and manufacture their own components, have gone along this standardized path.

The only real exceptions are some Japanese companies, like NEC, Fujitsu and Toshiba who make their own disc drives, and RAM chips and processor chips, although under licence to standardized designs from Intel, Motorola and Zilog. Commodore, too, makes many of its own chips as it has an in-house chip manufacturer, though Apple has largely pulled out of making its disc drives in favour of Sony's 3in. units.

This means that, as there are few major design costs, as standard machines can use the pool of software written for them, and as micros are largely sold through dealers, today's micro manufacturer can get into the market at a relatively low cost.

Anyone wanting to get into computers only 10 years ago would have had to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in designing processors, writing software and setting up direct sales outlets, but today the computer manufacturer has all these handed to him on a plate.

It was estimated, for example, that ACT's successful push into the market with the Apricot cost it £10 million - and most of that went into marketing, a vital factor which many aspirant suppliers forget.

This helps to explain why, despite the much publicized bankruptcy of a handful of manufacturers, more than 300 are still in the market and some of them are doing very well. ACT is a case in point.

It is probably true that computer bankruptcies are no more common, pro rata, than those in most other industries. They tend, however, to be more spectacular.

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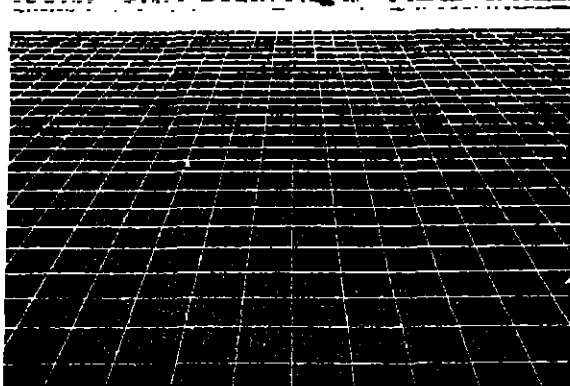
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Systems Analysts

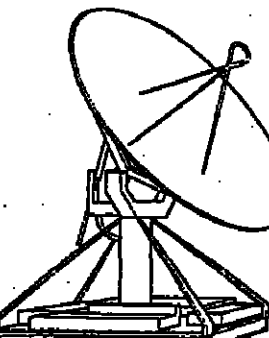
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The creation of this group represents an opportunity for Systems Analysts to become involved with new and innovative business systems from feasibility through to implementation. Candidates should offer two to three years experience of systems investigation preferably gained within a large organization. Required to liaise with users and consultants, applicants should display clear and concise communication skills.

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People/Richard Dillon, Dillon Technology

Lyrical days for a one-man system

By Ian White

Two years ago, Richard Dillon, an Irish accountant, was frustrated to discover no software on the market that could perform the task he wanted.

So he did the next best thing. He quit his job as Honeywell's international finance director, formed a company, and designed from scratch a system that would perform multi-currency accounting so that local subsidiaries could quickly prepare figures to conform to the accounts of their respective parent company.

The result was Dillon Technology, a Cork-based company "substantially" funded by the Irish Industrial Development Authority and investors in industry. The business predicts £1 million turnover at the end of its next financial year for sales of its Lyric Business System.

Mr Dillon has worked in Britain and the United States with such blue-chip names as General Electric, running the accounts of European subsidiaries. The trick was to produce



Richard Dillon: Designing a system from scratch

their books in local currency, then convert them back to dollars for submission to the US head office.

He said: "It is not a question of just converting the exchange rate. You have to translate local currency figures five different ways because of inflation and other economic and legal factors. I could not find any software that would help me do this quickly. It used to take me 25 days to get the local subsidiary figures into the format I needed to transmit back to the parent company."

The time delay was too great to be able to perform good management accounting. I have now designed a system to cater for the vagaries of all European countries taking account of their requirements."

Mr Dillon says the Lyric system, which took a year to

produce, features mainframe performance on 16-bit micros equipped with hard disc storage. He claims it enables subsidiaries to report back to their head office within two hours.

He added: "The software is independent of language. So, for example a German company could translate the screen messages and manuals very easily."

He says systems have already been installed for customers with IBM PC/XT, DEC Rainbow, Altos, and Northstar micro computers. They have paid between £900 and £1,200 for each of the accountancy modules - sales ledger, purchase ledger, nominal ledger, stock control, sales order processing and sales invoicing. Clients include BAT, Guinness, British Aerospace, Japanese computer giant Fujitsu and Digital Equipment in Saudi Arabia.

Secondhand market: The time is right

By Martin Banks

There is a growing case for the rapid development of a strong secondhand market in personal computers, especially at the level of the small business machine. In the same way that the secondhand car market has both helped develop the sales of new vehicles and brought motoring to many who otherwise could not afford it, secondhand computing is set to perform the same service.

It is not a new idea of course: there has even been a magazine launched to try to foster the market place. The time, however, is just about right.

The reason is mainly the IBM Personal Computer. This machine has not only set a standard of computer configuration and operation that will last for many years, it has established a complete dynasty, with full supporting cast of other companies ready, willing and able to follow and promote any aspect or facility IBM cares to develop.

Previous attempts at setting up a viable secondhand computer market place have been based primarily around the home computers. It has failed, to a large degree, because the home-computer market has been something of a flash in the pan - a passing phase. Games-playing machines are normally faddish, and the fad is now largely over, so who wants to



buy something secondhand and pass?

Instead, it is the business machines area where the market can and probably will exist, and there are several reasons this should be so.

One, as has been found with many of the older 8-bit computer systems, is that such machines have a workable life that is longer than the original owner's requirements. Old CP/M machines such as the North Star Horizon or Apple II are still soldering on. Indeed Apple Computer is still making much of its money from selling the later versions of the II. For

many users' applications such machines are in practice more than adequate.

This adequacy increases the further down the user base you travel. The smaller the user, the smaller are the user's needs. This means, if followed to its conclusion, that many of the existing home users of things such as Sinclair Spectrums and Commodore Vic 20s could easily upgrade themselves to old secondhand CP/M machines and take advantage of the wealth of applications software (both games and more practical stuff) that is available. Much of that software is also free.

compatible (unless its Apple). Even IBM will have to remain IBM-compatible if it is to take the established users with it into the future.

This means that the standards established with the IBM PC, especially the standard set for software, will be with us for many years. This in turn means that many existing users will have moved to bigger machines, such as the PC/AT and whatever follows it, while there is still plenty of useful life left in their original PC.

Some users will want to keep their old hardware and just expand their operations by adding the new machines. Others will want to replace that hardware. For them, an integral part of the deal will be doing something viable with the replaced equipment. Certainly they can stuff their old PCs in a cupboard, but selling them will be a better alternative: if there is a market. Providing that market will give dealers of new equipment a sales edge over those who do not.

While the standard remains, the PC and its compatibles will be sellable, for the smaller users with smaller budgets will be able to break into the world of computer utilisation at a price they can afford, and at the same time being compatible with a solid and long term upgrade path to better things.

Going deeper for oil and gas

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The creation of British Maritime Technology from the merger of the National Maritime Institute and the British Ship Research Association will soon bear fruit in the shape of a new computer design system which could revolutionize the construction of offshore gas and oil pipelines.

The next round of North Sea oil exploration licensing will open up new deep-water areas where gas and oil will have to be brought ashore as cheaply as possible if the extra cost of production from such hostile areas is to be recouped.

Computers are, of course, as common as roughnecks on the new generation of North Sea oil drilling and production platforms. However, BMT is now about to launch a fully developed package which will allow the pipeline builders to lay networks in waters previously considered too deep or storm-ravaged.

At Wallsend where BMT has

its CAD/CAM centre, Dr Yusef Odabasi, the divisional manager of hydromechanics, has created a system which pipeline companies are already interested in and which will soon be marketed.

Dr Odabasi, who like all of the 500 scientists at BMT's centres in Wallsend and Feltham has access to the massive research data built up by the British shipbuilding and marine industries over the past 100 years (most of it now on computer), has created a package which will handle every aspect of pipeline design, construction and operation.

He said: "The system can consider every aspect affecting a pipeline externally: water flow rates, pressures, temperature, wave patterns, salinity and vibrations. It will also cover all the internal factors: the type of crude oil involved, whether its waxy or sulphurous, its temperature, the pressure it is pumped at, the rate it moves and all the other characteristics. What ever flows through the pipeline

or whatever combination of products that flow through are taken into account.

The result is that pipeline designs will be drastically changed. They will become cheaper as better use of materials is made - the computer program takes into account the characteristics of all potential pipe-line construction materials and welding techniques - and will be installed in areas where previously sea and sea-bed conditions made it impossible for pipelines designed as they are at present to operate economically, as better use of compression stations can be made.

The system will ultimately find its best market in the North Sea when new subsea production systems come on stream early in the next century as new technology is used to bring every last drop of oil ashore. But the system has been developed in the North East and ultimately the coalfields on Northumberland and Durham could benefit.

How do you solve a Chinese puzzle?

By Chris Naylor

How do you train 150,000 Chinese engineers to use micros? This is a question Dennis Flexney-Briscoe was asked, as managing director of the recently-formed Hanover Education Systems, he is now working on the answer.

His reasons are strictly commercial: Hanover is marketing a system of computer-based training (CBT) called CAN-8. It could be that CAN-8 presents a possible solution to the question of the 150,000 engineers. Developed primarily at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), CAN-8 is one of those systems in which students sit down in front of a VDU and are automatically instructed and tested using specially-designed "course ware" which helps to provide a much-needed degree of uniformity in what they are taught and reduces, though does not eliminate, the need for teachers of the human variety.

Such systems are not particularly new. What is new about CAN-8 though is its ability to help answer the 150,000 Chinese engineers question for Hanover Education systems has

found that the biggest market in CBT is in providing training to large numbers of people simultaneously.

Estimating the UK market alone for CBT at £58 million a year Hanover reckons that 30 per cent of this would come from major industrial concerns, 25 per cent from the banking and finance sector, 18 per cent from central government, 18 per cent from the educational sector, and 9 per cent from public utilities. Which means that the real money in CBT is going to come from large organizations, spread geographically widely, with large numbers of people to train. Often in industry-specific skills. And training tens of thousands of engineers is just one good example of this.

So, unlike many CBT systems which can only support a small number for students, CAN-8 (which stands for "completely arbitrary name, version 8") is able to support up to 128 students simultaneously from one Honeywell minicomputer. And, using CANNET communications software, up to 256 of these systems can be interconnected - to allow a maximum of 32,768 students simultaneous access to identical courseware. To do that would, of course, cost money: £400,000 to £500,000 for a system that size. But smaller systems can start off at around £12,000 and it is even possible to access existing CAN-8 courseware using a remote terminal made up of something as simple as the BBC Model B.

The great advantage that size brings to CBT, though, is the fact that large, expensive users justify the necessary investment needed to develop high-quality courseware, and that courseware, once developed, could be made available to any establishment that wanted it even if they themselves would not have had the resources for a full-blown system.



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of pedigree is quite outstanding: £1,675.

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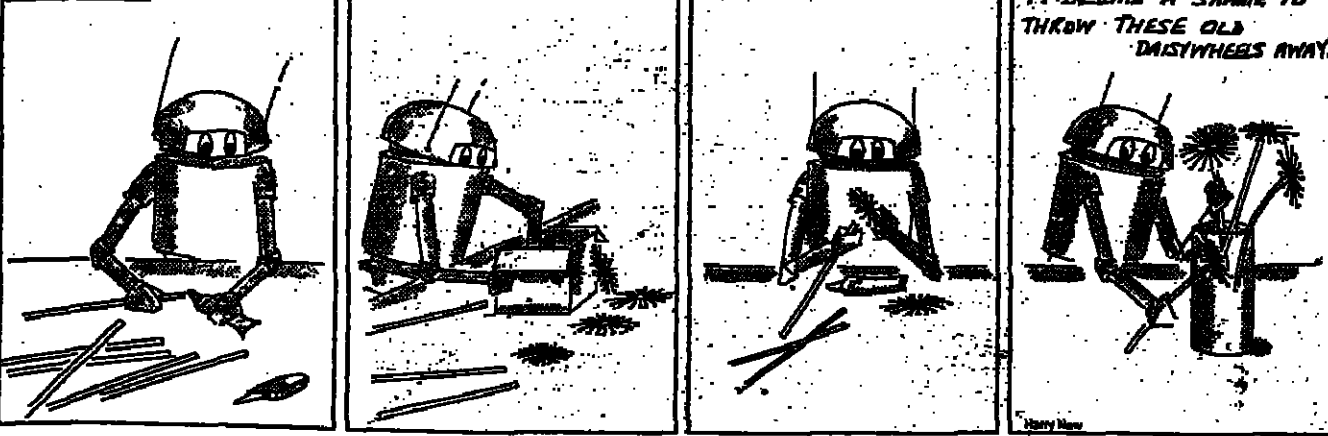
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To begin with, each contestant is allocated £1,000, with the computer giving a financial report on the transactions to guide "Individual business decisions". Players may be declared bankrupt if they get more than £10,000 in the red.

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FOOTBALL

Asprey suspended from duties at Stoke City

By Clive White

Though there is bound to be a stampede of applicants for the post of manager at Stoke City — should Bill Asprey's suspension from duties yesterday become permanent — there is unlikely to be much quality in the eventual short list. As Dennis Smith, the Stoke City manager and former Stoke favourite, said recently about the possibility of his eventually taking over at the Victoria Ground: "I've no wish to commit suicide at the moment."

Earlier in the season Asprey was ordered to rest by his doctor. His suspension is a result of events on and off the field. In *The Times* on Friday he said: "I have not been allowed to manage. Any money there has been gone elsewhere, not on players. The season was lost in the boardroom long before it started on the pitch."

He added, prophetically: "I've got to think in terms of being out of work soon." He is to take legal advice over the suspension. "As far as I am concerned, they have broken our contract by sacking me," he said. Stoke have not been much stragglers as stragglers in the

first division this season. They have never been out of the bottom three since the first day and have been bottom since October 13. They are 17 points adrift, which is also their sum total after three wins in 34 games.

At this rate they would finish with eight points fewer than even Wolverhampton Wanderers last season. Relegation should be confirmed in the next fortnight. The final insult came in their last match when beaten 4-0 at home by Luton Town, who are also staring at relegation.

"I believe I have been let down and made the scapegoat for many things that were out of my control," Asprey said yesterday. Frank Edwards, the chairman, said recently: "Asprey has done the best he could with the players he has had around him."

The club's playing staff was reduced by eight at the end of last season when they made an excellent recovery to avoid relegation. Asprey was given a two-year contract, having taken over as caretaker manager when

Richie Barker was dismissed. Tony Lacey, the coach, has been appointed caretaker. His first match will be on Saturday against Everton, the League leaders.

New contract for Docherty

Tommy Docherty (right), the Wolverhampton Wanderers manager, will be awarded a contract for next season even if the club are relegated to the third division. The Wolves board have unanimously agreed to ask Docherty to stay on but the terms of the deal will depend on their League position at the end of the season.



Luton must forget heartbreak

By Clive White

Luton Town's first division life may depend upon how quickly they recover from the loss of their cup one. They will have had about 72 hours to mourn their unlucky FA Cup semi-final defeat to Everton on Saturday by the time they meet Norwich City at Kenilworth Road tonight.

David Platt, the Luton manager, said afterwards on Saturday, partly in an effort to console his team, that they had qualified for the final. It might have distressed them but their main objective, which was to stay in the first division. But the heartbreak of this defeat for youngsters like Breckner, Thomas and Parker, all under 20, could be just as distressing.

It takes a while for even the most experienced players to work such a defeat out of the system. Ipswich Town and Sunderland both took time to readjust themselves to failure in cup competitions (twice over in Ipswich's case), and they are not out of the woods, or should I say the quicksand, yet.

Equally, cup success can be disruptive to League form, as can be seen in Norwich's record since beating Sunderland in the Milk Cup final on March 24. Since drawing at home to Sheffield Wednesday they have lost to Arsenal, Ipswich and Watford, all by a score of 2-0, to drop from relative mid-table comfort to a slightly uneasy position just above the madhouse of relegation.

Luton's need, though, is greater than Norwich's at the moment but they seem ill-equipped to meet it with five players on the injured list. Hartford, their main goalkeeper, has little chance of playing with his damaged ankle, which is also the injury afflicting Hill and Donaghy. Stein has a calf strain and Breckner damaged ribs. But as Platt said: "It is their pride rather than success which is bruised." The return of the cup-tied Preece and particularly Nicholas, who talks a good game, will be important in the boosting of Luton's morale.

Ipswich go to Watford for a match which is just as critical to their future. Though no doubt a spell of learning in second division would do their talented youngsters no harm, they will definitely be without four regulars. Osman and McCall with long-term injuries, and Cranshaw and Pugh.

Verona losing grip on title and players

Verona's surprising first defeat at home by Torino on Sunday leaves them a mere four points in front of Juventus, the beat Udinese, in second place, and Lazio, in third. Meanwhile, Verona know they will probably lose two of their best players, the defender, Marangoni, and the international forward, Fanna, to Internazionale di Milan next season.

Inter have offered Fanna 700 million lire (nearly £300,000) for a one-year contract, Marangoni 300 million lire per annum for a two-year contract.

Calderisi missed a penalty for Verona. By the time Briegleb headed their consolation goal, 77 minutes had gone. Torino, spurred on by Juventus, based in Italy, has been picked for the Europa Cup. Sampdoria 2-0 ahead after 65 minutes, after a cross from Francis had made the opening goal for Fiorentina.

Verona's consolation for Lazio's big win over Fiorentina, which was seen in Norwich's record since beating Sunderland in the Milk Cup final on March 24. Since drawing at home to Sheffield Wednesday they have lost to Arsenal, Ipswich and Watford, all by a score of 2-0, to drop from relative mid-table comfort to a slightly uneasy position just above the madhouse of relegation.

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CRICKET

Australians ready to take legal action

From Ian Brayshaw

The Australian Cricket Board yesterday prepared to launch a counter-attack on the mooted "rebel" tours of South Africa over the next two summers by threatening legal action against any of its players who might be involved. The ACB chairman, Fred Bennett, said that most of the 17 players due to leave for the England tour on April 30 were bound by existing contracts. Players may in future be asked to sign statutory declarations that they will not tour South Africa before they accept any contract offered by the Board.

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MCC plan stylish celebrations

By John Woodcock

To mark their bicentenary in 1987, MCC have schemes afoot. The most important of these, so long as their members are agreeable, is the rebuilding of the Mound stand at Lord's. The new stand, a five-day match in August 1987, between MCC side, comprising anyone playing first-class cricket in England at that time, and a Rest of the World XI.

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CYCLING



Prologue to victory: Malcolm Elliott before winning last night's time trial by six seconds from McLoughlin

McLoughlin is one who takes to hills

By John Wilcockson

This week's Sealink International race, which began with a prologue time trial in Rotherham last night, has no time bonuses, so the race will be won and lost in the nine road race stages that the six professional and six amateur teams will contest over the next five days.

Many eyes will be on the new professional, Joseph McLoughlin, who astonished the European last Wednesday when he figured in the significant break in the Ghent-Wevelgem classic, the first long-distance race he has contested. This 20-year-old Liverpool rider, the brother-in-law of his AHC team manager, John Wilcockson, is a former amateur champion and a former professional. He is a former professional and a former amateur champion.

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SNOOKER

Francisco denies any 'drugs scandal'

By Peter Davenport

Silvino Francisco, the man at the centre of snooker's first "drugs scandal" was trailing 5-1 in his first round match with Dennis Taylor at the Embassy world professional championships in Sheffield yesterday.

The *Daily Star*, in its main front page article yesterday, quoted Francisco, a South African, accusing his opponent in last month's final of the Dulux British Open of using artificial stimulants. The allegations continued across two inside pages under the headline "He was high as a kite on dope". Francisco beat the Canadian player, Kirk Stevens, in the match to achieve his first major victory in this country.

Following a hurried meeting of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, the sport's ruling body, there were emphatic denials of a scandal.

At a press conference at the Crucible Theatre, where the Embassy championships are being staged, Francisco denied he had made the allegations. Referring to the inside page headline, he said: "I did not say that at all. It's a total lie. As the Dutch final I got a bit heated and I might have said something but I don't know what it was. I got in that state because it was my first major final. I would like to apologise to Kirk and the world body for putting them in this predicament." He said "95 per cent" of the article was inaccurate.

Rex Williams, the chairman of the WPBSA, denied that the new drug testing procedures had been introduced as a result of the allegations.

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SQUASH RACKETS

Beeson in line to play Khan

By Colin McQuillan

Bryan Beeson, from the Armley club, yesterday found himself with an underdog chance of playing Jahangir Khan, the world champion, who has not lost a match since 1981.

In the opening round of the Davies and Tate British open championships at East Grinstead, Beeson needed to win two games to beat Nasser Zahran, of Egypt. His next opponent is Frank Donnelly, who had a bye when another Australian, Rick Hill, the thirteenth seed, arrived 20 minutes late and was disqualified. Beeson beat Donnelly by three games to one in Paris last month, and if he does it again he will face Jahangir.

In December Beeson reached the British closed final unseeded, and earned England selection in the process. It was a late attack of mumps suffered by the fourth seed, David Lloyd, that caused Beeson's path through the draw on that occasion.

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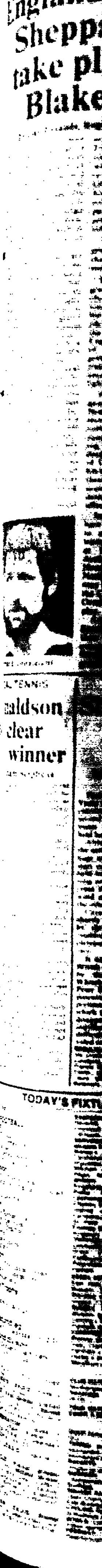
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England Shepp take pl Blake



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Continued on page 34

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TUESDAY Computer comprehensive guide to Legal Appointments: Solicitors, Commercial Lawyers, Private & Public practice

THE WORLD-FAMOUS
ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY General meetings: Chief Executive, Directors, Directors, S

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Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Summaries by Peter and Peter Davalle

TV-am

6.15 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycomb at 6.15, 6.30, 6.45; 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.55; sport at 8.29 and 7.57; exercises at 8.59 and 8.18; Popeye cartoon at 7.22; pop video at 7.54; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.40; cooking at 8.06. The guests include Connie Francis.

TV/LONDON

9.25 **Thames news headlines** followed by **Seaside Street**. 10.10 **The Midwest**. James Michael visits an industrial area in the midwest of the United States known as 'the conscience of the country'. 11.10 **Fabulous Funnies**. About Britain. A profile of **Seamus**. Front in Wiltshire, during July.

11.20 **Cockleshell Bay**. The first of a new series about the puppet **Cockle** twins, designed to help young children prepare for the arrival of a new baby in the house. 12.10 **Rainbow**. (r) 12.30 **The Sullivans**.

1.00 **News at One** and weather. 1.20 **Thames news**.

1.30 **The Outlander**. Part two of the drama in a Yorkshire market town where the arrival of **Frank Scully** leads to mystery and intrigue (**Oracle**). (r) 2.30 **Daytime**. Sarah Kuhn's review of an industrial discussion on a matter of topical importance. 3.00 **Gambit**. Quiz game for couples.

3.25 **Thames news headlines**. 3.30 **The Doctors**. Medical drama series set in a large Australian city hospital.

4.00 **Cockleshell Bay**. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **Bethnic**. 4.20 **Alfie** in a starring role in the adaptation of **Lewis Carroll's** classic children's story, starring **Giselle Andrews** as **Alfie** (**Oracle**).

4.45 **The Walt Garna**. A new theatre workshop programme in which a group of young people have to guess the programme's theme and build their own scenery with the blocks provided. In this opening programme pupils from **Fieldway Middle School** take up the challenge (**Oracle**).

5.15 **Blockbusters**.

5.45 **News**. 6.00 **Thames news**.

6.05 **Reporting London**, presented by **Michael Barrett**, includes a profile of local Hackney boy made good, **Alan Sugar**; and a tour of **Giveland**, once the **Factor** restaurant home now being converted to an hotel for the very wealthy.

6.05 **Emmerdale Farm**. The **Rev Donald Hilton** is having trouble raising funds.

7.30 **Buzman's Holiday**. Team quiz presented by **Julian Perley**. About those countries tonight are a trio of Derby publications (**Oracle**).

8.00 **Boxing: World Middleweight Championship**. From **Cesar's Palace, Las Vegas**, the richest lightweight fight of all time with **Ray Mancini** and **Harold Hagler** and **Tony Hearn**, earning more than \$5 million.

8.00 **Television**. Part 10 of the 13-programme history of television examines the claims of **Frank Birt** as the supporter and of its detractors (**Oracle**). (see Choice)

8.00 **News at Ten** includes five commentary from the **State Banquet** at Windsor where the Queen receives the **Malawi** President, **Dr Banda**.

8.30 **The Gambler**. Part two of the series starring **Kenny Rogers** in the title role. Tonight his plans to leave the gaming and the gunning are unexpectedly sidelined (**Oracle**).

8.20 **Night Thoughts** from **Muthoor Krishnamurti**.

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CHANNEL 4

2.30 Channel Four Racing from Newmarket. Brough Scott introduces four races from opening day of the first flat racing meeting of the season at the Suffolk course. The Geoffrey Baring Maiden Stakes (2.55); the Cheven Stakes (3.05); the Norfolk Handicap (3.35); and the Swaffham Handicap (4.10).

4.30 Issue the Slave Girl. The second episode of the Brazilian made soap opera on a plantation in the 18th-century, issues questions mistress about the mystery that surrounds the identity of her father. Followed by *Famburley*, a celebration of the music, colour and dance present day Brazil.

5.30 Low Tech. The fifth programme in Rick Ball's series in which he transforms everyday objects into futuristic, sleek looking storage system out of wood wine crates.

6.00 Champions All Gymnastics from Wembley Arena when competitors from 13 countries are appearing in the Dail Mirror-sponsored World Cup. Britain is represented by the national champions, Andrew Morris from Swansea and Natalie Davies of Orpington.

7.00 Channel Four News includes a special report on the visit of this country with that in Germany and the United States.

7.50 Comment. With her view or matter of topical importance, author and broadcaster, Dr Susan Stoppard, discusses the book.

8.00 Brookside. Tom Curzon makes Heather an interesting offer while Harry steps up his battle with the bookmaker.

8.30 The Wine Programme. Part five of Jancis Robinson's informative series examines the establishments that make wine. The programme visits traditional and ultra-modern wineries in Spain, Italy, France and Australia, to find out if wine is better in oak casks than steel tanks and if small concerns produce a better tasting wine than that which is produced by big concerns.

9.00 Film: Intimate Agony (1983) starring Anthony Geary. A made-for-television drama about a young surgeon who discovers that a holiday island is the threat to his life and the epidemic. When he announces the fact to the press he incurs the wrath of the local proper developer (Robert Vaughn) and the island's residents. Directed by Paul Wendkos.

10.35 Eastern Eye. Two hundred young Asians are in the studio to share their attitudes to arranged marriages, racism within the Asian community, inter-racial marriages and the impact of Western life on Asian culture. Presented by Aziz Kurtha and Jawinder Bansal.

11.40 Closedown.

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● Radio highlights: **Michael Robson's** play in **Admiral Bead** (Radio 4, 3.00pm) with **Obimovian** answers; **P. R. Eyre's** two-act version of **the** **1989** **production** (Radio 4, 7.15pm); and **Hubert Green** of **Jessie Matthews**, a **singer** who **could**, perhaps, have **no other** **deaths** than the **1** (Radio 2, 8.00pm).

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...5.00 PM: News
...Magazine
...5.30 Shopping,
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...9.45 Kaleidoscope,
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...with Peter
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...Top Story
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Radio 3

6.55 Weather, 7.00 News
7.05 Remembrance: Cecil Williams
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